THE

POCKET

PRAYER BOOK.

CHELSEA:

PRINTED BY DENNETT JAQUES

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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POCKET PRAYER BOOK.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

MY Friends, you will receive this *Prayer Book*, not as a ſet of forms to which you are to be confined, but as helps to lead you to devotion.

Prayer is your firſt duty, your higheſt privilege: it is a communion of the ſoul with God; with your Father, your heavenly Father! It muſt proceed from your own hearts; it muſt be the language of your own joys, of your own wants and ſorrows. It will be the pleaſure and comfort of your life to keep up this devout communion with your God; when loaded with mercies, how pleaſant is it to look up and ſay, "Thou crowneſt "me with loving kindneſs and tender "mercies!"—"He that ſpared not his "Son, but freely gave him up for us all, "how ſhall he not with him alſo freely "give us all things?" When burdened under a ſenſe of ſin, what relief is there in going weary and heavy laden

to a throne of grace, and pleading thoſe gracious words, "I will give you reſt," "he that cometh unto me I will in no "wiſe caſt out." When caſt down with ſorrow and overwhelmed with fears, you can go and caſt all your care upon him that careth for you.

Under all the perplexities of life to be permitted to ſay, "thou wilt guide me "by thy council: though fleſh and "heart fail, thou wilt be the ſtrength "of my heart and my portion for "ever;" is a conſolation which the world can neither give nor take away.

The mind that thus converſes with God, that is thus ſtaid upon him, will enjoy a peace which the world knows not of—that paſſeth all underſtanding.

Wait not for the ſolemn ſeaſon of prayer, but let your mind aſcend to God in every moment of difficulty, fear, or temptation; and let every new mercy raiſe your heart in praiſe. Why do Chriſtians live ſo little under the power of religion, or experience ſo little of its comforts, but becauſe they are ſuch ſtrangers to this devout communion with God? How many idle thoughts in the day

might be exchanged for thoughts of God, and every thought be a ſpring of pleaſure and holy delight! When prayer is mixed with your thoughts, your heart will breathe out ſuch requeſts as that of the Pſalmiſt, "Rejoice the "ſoul of thy ſervant, for unto thee, O "Lord, do I lift up my ſoul!"

To promote this ſpirit of devotion, converſe much with the word of God; let it "dwell richly in you in all wiſ-"dom and ſpiritual underſtanding;" endeavour to imitate the lively devotion you meet with in the heavenly volume, and try to have your heart affected in the ſame way. Imagine that the invitation is directed to you.—"O come let us "ſing unto the Lord, let us come be-"fore his preſence with thankſgiving." Do you join the concert and ſay, "I "will ſing unto the Lord as long as I "live; I will ſing praiſes to my God "while I have a being."

Accuſtom yourſelves to behold the bleſſed God in the face of his beloved Son, "the brightneſs of his glory, and "the expreſs image of his perſon." Call upon him in the endearing relation as

the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt—his God and our God—his Father and our Father! "Bleſſed be the "God and Father of our Lord Jeſus "Chriſt, who according to his abun- "dant mercy hath begotten us again to "a lively hope—of an inheritance in- "corruptible, undefiled, and that fa- "deth not away."

Let ſome portion of the word of God be read every day in this devotional way; it will afford ſubject both for meditation and prayer; and thus through the influences of divine grace, you will attain to that ſpiritual mindedneſs which is "life and peace" here, and will fit you to join in the ſong of Moſes and the Lamb for ever.

DEVOTIONAL SENTENCES

To be uſed before kneeling down to prayer, in the family, the cloſet, or at church.

Lord's Day.

Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee ſhall the vow be performed.

O thou that heareſt prayer, unto thee ſhall all fleſh come.

Bleſſed is the man whom thou chooſeſt, and cauſeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts, he ſhall be ſatisfied with the goodneſs of thy houſe, even of thy holy temple.

O God, thou art our God, early will we ſeek thee; our ſoul thirſteth for thee; our fleſh longeth for thee in a dry and thirſty land where no water is—to ſee thy power and thy glory ſo as we have ſeen thee in the ſanctuary! I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the preſence of all his people.

To be used on common Days.

O come let us worſhip and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker: for he is our God; and we are the people of his paſture, and the ſheep of his hand.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to ſing praiſes unto thy name, O moſt High—to ſhew forth thy loving kindneſs in the morning, and thy faithfulneſs every night.

Let us worſhip the Lord in the beauty of holineſs.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord ſay ſo, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

I love the Lord, becauſe he hath heard the voice of my ſupplication, becauſe he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help.

Unto thee do we lift up our eyes, O thou that dwelleſt in the heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of ſervants look unto the hands of their maſters; ſo our eyes wait upon thee the Lord our God, until thou have mercy upon us.

We will extol thee, O God, our King, and will bleſs thy name for ever and ever.

Every day will we praiſe thee, and bleſs thy name for ever and ever.

The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

He will hear their cry, and will ſave them.

Bleſs the Lord, O our ſouls—and let every thing that has breath, praiſe the Lord.

Introductory Prayer.

To be uſed at the beginning of our devotions.

O Thou ever bleſſed majeſty, who filleſt heaven and earth with thy preſence, and art always liſtening to the

ſupplications of a world of creatures that hang upon thee; open, we beſeech thee, thine ears of mercy to thine unworthy creatures, who are now proſtrate at thy foot ſtool. Our hearts would now open themſelves to thy gracious influence; poſſeſs them, we beſeech thee, with ſuch a ſtrong and vigorous love to thee, as may lift us up above all earthly things, that we may approach with joyful hearts to thee our God, our exceeding joy. Gather in, we beſeech thee, our wandering thoughts, and fix them upon thyſelf; raiſe our cold and earthly deſires, and cauſe them to flame up to thee in the lively fervour of devotion: May we ſo aſk, that we may receive; ſo ſeek, that we may find; ſo knock, that it may be opened unto us, through Jeſus Chriſt our bleſſed Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

PARAPHRASE *on the* LORD'S PRAYER.

To be uſed as a Family Prayer.

Our Father which art in heaven!

We would love thee as the Author of our being, as the Father of our ſpi-

rits; but thou art ſtill dearer to us as the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, by whom thou haſt redeemed us to thyſelf, called us out of darkneſs into marvellous light, and created anew thine image in our ſouls. Thou haſt adopted us into thy family, and made us heirs of God, and joint heirs with Chriſt. "Behold what manner of love" is this, "That we ſhould be called the ſons of God," and provided for as thy children! O let this name of Father, and our relation to thee, be our glory, our refuge, our ſupport, and the principle of our love and obedience to thee—give us that faith and humble confidence in prayer by the Spirit of grace and ſupplication, that we may go to thee in all our neceſſities, as children to a father, more ready to give than we are to aſk; and may we come with boldneſs to a throne of grace, to obtain mercy and grace to help in every time of need. O let the Spirit of thy Son breathe continually in our hearts, teaching us to cry Abba, Father. We would ſeek this Holy Spirit with more earneſtneſs than our daily food; and we know, O

Father, that thou art more ready to grant it than an earthly father is to grant bread to his children. Guilty, weak, and helpleſs as we are, it is our comfort that thou our heavenly Father knoweſt all our wants, and will ſupply all our need, not according to our neceſſities, but according to thy riches in glory by Chriſt Jeſus. Like a tender father, thou art ready to notice the earlieſt deſire of our ſouls after thee—the feebleſt ſtep toward thee. It is thine own gracious promiſe, before they aſk, I will anſwer; while they are yet ſpeaking, I will hear. Into thine ear would we pour all our ſorrows, and having caſt our burdens upon thee, would go away and be no more ſad. And O our Father, let us not only mourn, but rejoice before thee, as the children of thy love. Lift up upon us the light of a reconciled Father's countenance; let no allowed ſin ſeparate between us and our God; hide not thy face from us; put not thy children away in anger; leave us not, neither forſake us, O God of our ſalvation. O that it may ever be the joy of our hearts

to be righteous, as thou art righteous; to be merciful, as thou our heavenly Father art merciful; as thou art holy, ſo may we be holy in all manner of converſation. And O let the relation we bear to thee as thy children, fill us with love and kindneſs towards all our brethren of mankind. Let all thoſe whom thou wilt own for thy children, moſt gracious Father, be united to thee, and to one another in holy bands of love; bearing one anothers burdens, and joining together to advance the honour of thy holy name, and to ſhew forth thy praiſe; and at laſt may we make up one great family, which no man can number, and unite in aſcribing "Glory and praiſe to "Him who ſitteth upon the throne, and "to the Lamb for ever." And ſince thou, our Father, dwelleſt in heaven, may our affections be raiſed above earthly things; that we may ſeek heaven as our country, where we hope to poſſeſs thoſe manſions which Jeſus our elder brother has prepared for us in our Father's houſe. There may we be together with his Father, and our Father, with his God, and our God! Amen.

Hallowed be thy name.

" O LORD our Lord, how excellent " is thy name in all the earth, who haſt " ſet thy glory above the heavens!" All the hoſts of heaven adore thy glorious name! " Who is a God like unto " thee, glorious in holineſs, fearful in " praiſes, doing wonders." Thou art worthy of all our honour, homage, and obedience; and that every creature in heaven, and earth, ſhould tremble at thine irreſiſtible power—admire thine eternal wiſdom—and love thine infinite goodneſs. We tremble, O Lord, at the diſhonour that is done to thy holy name, by our own ſins, and the ſins of others. We are grieved at the profanation of thy name, and the violation of thy authority. How are thy laws tranſgreſſed, thy inſtitutions deſpiſed, thy orders contradicted, thy majeſty affronted, and thy glory trampled on. " Ri- " vers of tears run down our eyes, be- " cauſe men keep not thy law." But we truſt, O Lord, that the deſire of our hearts is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. In thy name we rejoice and put our truſt; we would take

it with reverence upon our lips, and ſanctify it in our hearts, and in our lives; and ſo glorify thy name in the eyes of the world, that others ſeeing our good works, may glorify thee, our Father, who art in heaven. And O let the happy time come, when all ſhall glorify thee, from the greateſt to the leaſt; when all nations—when every thing that hath breath—when heaven and earth, and all therein, ſhall join in the ſong of Moſes and the Lamb, ſaying, "great and marvellous are thy works, "Lord God Almighty! juſt and true "are thy ways, thou King of ſaints;" who ſhall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name; for thou only art holy. And let the whole earth be filled with thy glory, Amen and Amen.

Thy kingdom come.

When ſhall the happy time come, when "the kingdoms of the earth ſhall "become the kingdoms of the Lord "and of his Chriſt?" when thoſe who are now the willing ſlaves of ſin and Satan, ſhall be tranſlated into the kingdom of thy dear Son; when "every

"knee ſhall bow, and every tongue "confeſs, that Jeſus Chriſt is Lord, to "the glory of God the Father." Let that kingdom come, which is not meat and drink, but righteouſneſs and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghoſt.—Let it come and rule in our hearts, to ſubdue our rebellious wills, to mortify our corruptions, to bring down every high thought that exalteth itſelf againſt thy government, till all ſhall be brought to the obedience of faith. O let thy kingdom come, that this world may be more like heaven; when wars and fightings ſhall ceaſe, and hatred and ſtrife be known no more: when the old man ſhall be put off, with all its corruptions and luſts; and the new man put on, which after God is created in righteouſneſs, and true holineſs: when thoſe who are now enemies by wicked works, ſhall turn from their evil doings, do juſtice, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God. Let thy kingdom, O our God! be among us; and let the kingdom of grace be advancing in our ſouls, till in due time we ſhall be admitted to thy kingdom of glory.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

And let our ſouls ſay amen. O that it may be the rule of our deſires in all things; in fulneſs and in want, in joy and ſorrow, in life and in death! We would obey thy commands in all things with chearfulneſs; we would ſubmit to thy providential will without murmuring. Let not the will of the fleſh, but thy will and thy word rule in all our hearts. O when ſhall thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven—with chearfulneſs and with zeal? When ſhall the proud and rebellious will bow to thy holy and righteous will? Thy will, O God, is the meaſure of wiſdom and of holineſs; all thy works are wiſdom, and all thy ways are judgment; juſt and true are all thy ways, thou King of ſaints; and let every heart, we beſeech thee, join with us in ſaying, "Thy will be done!"

Give us this day our daily bread.

"The eyes of all wait on thee, and "thou giveſt them their meat in due "ſeaſon." Thou openeſt thine hand, and ſatisfieſt the deſire of every living

thing. Heavenly Father! we come to thee for our daily bread: "feed us with "food convenient for us, leſt we be full, "and deny thee, and ſay, who is the "Lord; or leaſt we be poor, and put "forth our hands to ſteal." Every day we want a freſh ſupply from thy table; and we would receive it as children from the hands of a Father who has ſaid, "aſk, and ye ſhall receive." And O our Father, while we are daily fed by thy bounty, ſhall we not live to thy glory? We would not live by bread alone; our ſouls would hunger and thirſt after righteouſneſs:—after that living bread, that cometh down from heaven; we would live upon thy word; we would feed by faith upon that Saviour who has ſaid, "I am the bread of "life." On this bread may our ſouls live, and be nourished up unto eternal life!

Forgive us our treſpaſſes.

O our Father, though thou haſt nouriſhed and brought us up as children, yet we have rebelled againſt thee: we have ſinned, Father, againſt heaven

" and in thy ſight, and are no more " worthy to be called thy children :" but, caſt us not away from thy preſence, but forgive us our treſpaſſes. " We have erred and ſtrayed from thy " ways like loſt ſheep: we have fol- " lowed the devices of our own hearts: " we have done that which we ought " not to have done; and have left un- " done what we ought to have done; " and there is no help in us: but do " thou, O God, have mercy upon us " miſerable ſinners."

Forgive us our ſins of ignorance and wilfulneſs; our ſins of heart, word or deed; the vanity of our minds; the pride and worldly mindedneſs of our hearts. Forgive us, heavenly Father, that after all the love thou haſt ſhewn to us, we ſhould love thee no more, and ſerve thee no better; put thy fear and love into our hearts, that we may no more ſin againſt thee: " blot out our tranſ- " greſſions as a cloud, and our iniqui- " ties as a thick cloud."

O our Father, deny us not that pardon which we would freely grant to all who treſpaſs againſt us. As thy chil-

dren, let us be ready to forgive, that we may hope for thy forgiving mercy, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and Saviour.

But deliver us from evil.

From ſin the worſt of evils—from miſchief of every kind—" from all " blindneſs of heart—from pride, vain " glory, and hypocriſy—from envy, " hatred and malice, and all uncha- " ritableneſs—from the deceits of the " world, the fleſh, and the devil—from " thy wrath and everlaſting damna- " tion—good Lord deliver us!" Thou art able to do for us, above all that we can aſk, conceive, or think.

For thine is the kingdom,

Thine is the power, and to thee be the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Family Prayer

For the Lord's Day Morning.

Most gracious God and Father, it is good for us to draw near to thee. Bleſſed is the man whom thou chuſeſt, and cauſeſt to approach unto thee, that he may be ſtill praiſing thee! we bleſs thee for the returning light of this morning. O let the day-ſpring from on high viſit our ſouls, and the ſun of righteouſneſs ariſe with healing under his wings. The light we ſee is the Lord's. "This "is the day which the Lord hath made, "we will rejoice and be glad therein." May this be indeed the ſabbath of the Lord in our dwelling, and in our hearts; a ſabbath of reſt from ſin, and of reſt in God. Enable us, we pray thee, ſo to ſanctify this day, that it may be made a means of our ſanctification.

Grant that by reſting from our worldly employments, our hearts may be more taken off from preſent things; and that by employing our time in the worſhip of God, we may be led into a more experimental acquaintance with the work

of heaven, and be made more meet for that bleſſed world.

On this day we would give glory to thee O God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth. "Thou art "worthy, O Lord, to receive bleſſing, "and honour, and glory, and power, for "thou haſt created all things, and for thy "pleaſure they are and were created."

O thou who didſt at firſt command the light to ſhine out of darkneſs, ſhine into our hearts, and give us more of the light of the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jeſus Chriſt; and let us be thy workmanſhip, created anew in him unto good works. With peculiar pleaſure would we call to mind the reſurrection of our exalted Redeemer from the dead on the firſt day of the week, by which he was declared to be the Son of God with power, and is become the firſt fruits of them that ſlept. O that as Chriſt was raiſed from the dead by the glory of the Father, ſo we alſo may riſe and walk in newneſs of life. We pray that the Spirit of him that raiſed up Jeſus from the dead may dwell and rule in us, and make us partakers of a new and divine

nature. We bleſs thee for thy holy word, which is a light to our feet and a lamp to our paths. Let us not receive this grace of God in vain; but teach us to value and underſtand that bleſſed book, which was written for our learning; that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Eſpecially we bleſs thee for the great Goſpel record, "that God hath "given to us eternal life, and that this "life is in his Son." O may we receive it as a faithful ſaying, and worthy of all acceptation, "that Chriſt came "into the world to ſave ſinners." May he be made unto us wiſdom, righteouſneſs, ſanctification and redemption. Being united to him by faith, may we grow up into him in all things, who is our head. We bleſs thee for the new covenant made with us in Jeſus Chriſt. May we fly for refuge to it, and take hold of it, as the hope ſet before us. O receive us into the bonds of this covenant, and make us accepted in the beloved. Grant that our hearts may this day be filled with pleaſing thoughts of Chriſt, and that great love wherewith he

hath loved us. For his ſake forgive all our ſins in thought, word and deed; and let no corrupt affections hinder the aſcent of our ſouls heavenward.

Let thy word come with life and power upon our ſouls, and be as good ſeed ſown in good ſoil, taking root and bringing forth fruit to thy praiſe. Fulfil, O Lord, that gracious promiſe, that "where two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt be in "the midſt of them." Aſſiſt the miniſters of thy goſpel rightly to divide the word of truth, and to ſpeak with faithfulneſs and ſucceſs. May ſinners be converted unto thee, and thy ſaints built up in knowledge, faith, and holineſs, unto ſalvation. Now the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing, through Jeſus Chriſt, our bleſſed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Family Prayer

For the Lord's Day Evening.

O moſt good and gracious God! though thou art the high and Holy One who inhabiteſt eternity, yet thou permit-

teſt duſt and aſhes to draw nigh unto thee; and dwelleſt in the humble and contrite heart, who trembleſt at thy word. We come this evening to praiſe thee for all the gracious words that we have heard this day in thy houſe; for the glad tidings of ſalvation which have ſounded in our ears; for all that we have heard of Jeſus, of his dying love, of his holy and ſpotleſs life, of the ſanctifying influences of his Spirit; for all the holy thoughts, affections and purpoſes that have been raiſed in our hearts; for the means of grace, and for the hopes of glory! How exceeding rich is thy grace to man in Chriſt Jeſus! "Thanks be "unto God for his unſpeakable gift!" And O may we ſhew this thankfulneſs by a life of conſtant obedience to thy commandments and of humble ſubmiſſion to thy will. May it be our meat and our drink to do thy will.

Forgive, O our Father, that our thoughts, affections, and devotions, towards thee are ſo few, ſo ſhort, ſo cold; that we have at any time loved the world, the trifles, and pleaſures of it, more than God, and Chriſt and heaven. We are

aſhamed, and tremble to think, with what indifference we too often hear, and receive the meſſages of ſalvation by Chriſt, and are ſo little melted by his love that we are ſo unlike our bleſſed Lord in his holy life, and in his meek and lowly temper; that we have no deeper ſenſe of the evil of ſin, after all that thou haſt done to deliver us from it, and to ſhew thy hatred againſt it; that we have ſo little ſerious ſenſe of the worth of ſouls, and the weight of eternity. O good God, clear up our underſtanding of divine things, call off our minds from every thing that draws our hearts from thee, and write thy law in our hearts, that we may no more ſin againſt thee. Sanctify us more entirely, in body, ſoul, and ſpirit; renew us more into thine image; we would be thine, more entirely thine; we would live to thee while we live; we would ſerve thee, not with the ſpirit of bondage, as a ſlave, but with the chearfulneſs and affection of a child. O make thy ways ſo pleaſant to us, that we may have no wiſh for the forbidden pleaſures of ſin. Let the thought of thy precious love in Chriſt, and our

peace and pardon and everlaſting bleſſedneſs with thee, be the daily cordial of our hearts. All the days of our lives may we comfort ourſelves, and one another with the hope, that we ſhall be ever with our glorified Lord. We would live, and worſhip together here, as fellow heirs of that glory and bleſſedneſs which we hope to enjoy with thee for ever in thy heavenly kingdom: and as the children of thy family, we would pray that the ſame bleſſings may deſcend on all our brethren of mankind; may they alſo with us partake of the great ſalvation, be tranſlated out of the kingdom of darkneſs into the kingdom of thy dear Son, and in him let all the nations of the earth be bleſſed. And may we all join at laſt in the ſong of Moſes and the Lamb, ſaying, "Worthy is the "Lamb that was ſlain, to receive glory "and honour, for he hath redeemed us "to God by his blood." Amen.

A Morning Prayer
For a Family.

" O Lord our God, thy name is moſt " excellent in all the earth. Thou haſt " ſet thy glory above the heavens," and thou art worthy to be celebrated with everlaſting praiſes of men and angels: " for thou haſt created all things, and " for thy pleaſure they are and were " created." Thy hands, O Lord, have made and faſhioned us, and thou haſt breathed into our noſtrils the breath of life; yea, thou upholdeſt our ſouls in life. Thou haſt formed us for thyſelf, that we ſhould ſhew forth thy praiſe. But, O Lord our God, we have not brought thee that glory for which we were made. O how greatly have we diſhonoured thee our God in the whole courſe of our lives.—Time after time forgetting thee, the gracious giver of all our good things. Though thou haſt never been unmindful of us, nor been weary of doing us good; yet, we have not only forgotten thee, but we have diſobeyed thee, and have rebelled againſt thee; we have ſet up our own will

againſt thy wiſe and holy will; we have followed the devices of our own hearts; we have done what we ought not to have done, and left undone that which we ought to have done, and there is no help in us! But for theſe things we deſire to pour out our hearts, and to humble our ſinful ſelves before thee. For the ſake of thy dear Son, have mercy upon us miſerable ſinners! and for the ſake of that mercy of thine in Chriſt Jeſus which has moved thee to ſpare us ſo long, and to do ſo much for us already, be pleaſed to give us repentance, and pardon for all that is paſt, wherein we have offended thee: pardon our iniquity for it is great, and ſtrengthen us, good Lord, with might by thy Spirit in the inner-man, to make us more watchful againſt ſin, and more victorious over the corruptions of our nature, the temptations of the devil, and allurements of this ſinful world. O deſtroy in us every evil habit, and rebellious motion, that exalts itſelf againſt the knowledge of God, and againſt the obedience of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; and increaſe and confirm in us more and more thy true

knowledge, and faith, and fear, and love, and every grace of thy Holy Spirit, which thou knoweſt to be moſt wanting in us, and moſt neceſſary for us; ſuch as may make our lives ſtill more comfortable to ourſelves, more profitable to others, and more to the glory of thy name. And however it goes with us as to the concerns of this life, O that we may ſtill be found in the way of our duty, fearing God, and working righteouſneſs; that we may ſecure our intereſt in the great Saviour of the world; that when all here ſhall fail us, thou mayeſt take us up, and be "the ſtrength "of our hearts, and our portion for "evermore."

"Day by day we magnify thee O "Lord" for thy mercies are new every morning, and freſh every evening. We bleſs thee for the refreſhment of the laſt night. O cauſe us to hear thy loving kindneſs in the morning; cauſe us to know the way wherein we ſhould go, for we lift up our ſouls to thee. Caſt us not away from thy preſence; take not thy Holy Spirit from us; but direct all our ways to pleaſe thee, and do thou

crown us with thy bleſſing. Help us to ſee thy power, to own thy preſence, to admire thy wiſdom, and to love thy goodneſs in all thy creatures;—and by all the comforts of creatures draw our hearts ſtill nearer to thyſelf, who art the giver of them all; and let our meditation of thee be ſweet as well as frequent; that delighting ourſelves in thee, we may have the deſires of our hearts. All this grace and mercy we beg in the name of our dear Redeemer; to whom with thee O Father, and the Holy Spirit, we would aſcribe honour and glory for ever. Amen.

Evening Prayer
For a Family.

Bleſſing, glory, honour, and praiſe be again returned to thee, O Father of mercies, the fountain of all the good things we enjoy at preſent, and the hope of our ſouls for ever and ever. Bleſſed be thy renewed kindneſs to us the day paſt; in our ſpiritual and temporal concerns, and in the liberty thou art granting us of drawing near unto thee. Pardon, good Lord, whatſoever has eſcaped us in

thought, word, or deed, contrary to thy holy law; and accept of our ſincere deſires to approve ourſelves to thee in all well doing. It is but juſt and reaſonable that we ſhould follow thy will, and not our own; and in a grateful ſenſe of what we have received from thee, we ought to employ all our powers of ſoul and body to thy glory. Such is the goodneſs of thy will, that it is our eaſe and pleaſure, and greateſt happineſs to be abſolutely led and governed by it. We are ſenſible, O Lord, how much we are indebted to thee for teaching us by Chriſt Jeſus, and ſtrongly obliging us to exerciſe ourſelves to all godlineſs, purity, righteouſneſs, humility, goodneſs and truth. We thank thee for his holy example, for the hope thou haſt given us by his blood; and for the gracious aids of thy Spirit to help us to follow him and obey his commands; and for the exceeding great and precious promiſes which he has given us of immortal life, to encourage us to follow him willingly and chearfully even unto death.

O that we may have a lively and

ſtedfaſt faith in his word continually working in our hearts, exciting us to unwearied diligence, zeal and love, and patient continuance in our duty towards thee, and towards all men; that ſo our hope in thee may grow and increaſe; that we may joyfully expect that hour which may tranſlate us to the eternal happineſs of the other world.

To thy mercy, O moſt merciful Father, we commit ourſelves and all that we are and have this night; beſeeching thee to defend and keep us both in ſoul and body from all evils and dangers, to which the weakneſs of our frame and the greatneſs of our ſins expoſe us. May our frail nature be refreſhed by comfortable repoſe, that we may riſe again better fitted to ſerve thee according to thy will, in all the duties of the following day; and if thou ſhalt be pleaſed to give us another day of trial, may we be enabled to add repentance and amendment to our lives; that every day may bring us nearer to thoſe everlaſting joys and glories which thou haſt prepared for thoſe that love thee. All we aſk is in the name of our dear Redeemer; to

whom with thyſelf and Holy Spirit be aſcribed everlaſting praiſes. Amen.

Morning Prayer
For a Family.

O Lord God, merciful and gracious, long ſuffering and abundant in goodneſs and truth! Thou keepeſt mercy for thouſands, pardoning iniquity, tranſgreſſion and ſin; thou doſt not retain thine anger for ever, becauſe thou delighteſt in mercy. How excellent is thy loving kindneſs, O God? therefore do the ſons of men put their truſt under the ſhadow of thy wings;—and therefore do we deſire ſtill to look up to that bountiful hand of thine which has ſatisfied us with every good thing. O Lord our God, be thou pleaſed to look down mercifully upon us, and be thou gracious and favourable to us; O look not upon our ſins, which are more than can be numbered, and greater than we can expreſs; but behold us in mercy through the merits and mediation of thy Son our Saviour, who did no ſin, and was manifeſted that he might take away our ſin. O that we may receive of his fulneſs,

grace sufficient for us, to pardon our sins and subdue our iniquities; to justify our persons and sanctify our souls; and to compleat upon our hearts and lives that truly renovating change which may transform us into the blessed image after which we were created anew in Christ Jesus; and make us more meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Teach us, O Lord our God, to use this world without abusing it; and to enjoy the things of it without losing our part in thy love, which is better than life. Whatever we have of this world, O may we have it with thy love, sanctified to us by thy word and prayer; and whatsoever we want of the things of this life.—O Lord our heavenly Father, leave us not destitute of those things that accompany salvation, but fill our souls with such graces of thy Spirit, as may enable us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; that others seeing our good works, may glorify our Father which art in heaven.

And now that thou hast renewed our lives and thy mercies to us this morning, help us, good God, to renew our desires

and endeavours to live in obedience to thy holy will, and to the honour of thy bleſſed name; and grant that we may think, and ſpeak, and will and do, things becoming the children of our heavenly Father, and ſo find the ſtrong conſolation of thy gracious acceptance in Chriſt Jeſus our Saviour, in whom we deſire to be found in life, in death, and for ever. Amen.

An Evening Prayer

- *For a Family.*

We are here again proſtrate before thee, O Lord of heaven and earth, to join ourſelves with all that holy company who reſt not day and night, ſaying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Al-"mighty, which was, and is, and is to "come. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to "receive glory, honour, and power; "for thou haſt created all things, and "for thy pleaſure they are and were "created." Bleſſed be thy divine goodneſs, which has made the children of men but little lower than the angels; and crowned us with ſuch glory and ho-

nour, that we are capable of accompanying the heavenly hoſts, in giving continual thanks and praiſe to thee. Praiſed be thy name for all the comforts of this life, and for the hopes of eternal bleſſedneſs in the life to come, through Jeſus Chriſt. O how great was thy love, which ſent him into the world to direct us in the way to that happineſs, by his holy doctrine and life; to be a propitiation for our ſins by his death; and to be the firſt that ſhould riſe from the dead and ſhould ſhew light unto the world. We rejoice in that light of life, we moſt chearfully devote ourſelves to be the faithful diſciples of this Prince of Peace, the Lord of life and glory. It is our happineſs as well as our duty to be governed by him, and obey his commands. We are ſenſible they are all wiſe and good, and that it is in love and kindneſs thou haſt taught us to deny ungodlineſs and worldly luſts, and to live ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly, in the world. And therefore we here again moſt heartily ſurrender our wills to thine; deſiring that we may cleave to it, with the moſt intire love and affection to all its commands. O

that there may abide in us ſuch a ſtrong, and powerful ſenſe of thy mighty love towards us in Chriſt Jeſus, as may conſtrain us freely and willingly to pleaſe thee in the conſtant exercise of piety and devotion, righteouſneſs and mercy, meekneſs and patience, truth and fidelity; with ſuch a humble, contented and peaceable ſpirit, as may adorn the religion of our Lord and Maſter. O God, grant that theſe holy deſires and inclinations may never die, nor languiſh in our hearts, but be kept alive in their vigour and force, by the perpetual inſpiration of the Holy Ghoſt: in theſe holy thoughts and deſires, we now commend ourſelves to thy protection this night, who haſt preſerved and bleſſed us all the day paſt. We repoſe ourſelves in the belief of thy good providence, with which we entruſt ourſelves, and all belonging to us. We would lay ourſelves down to ſleep with hearts full of love to thee, and humble faith and hope in thee; and when we awake may we be ſtill with thee. Diſpoſe us, good Lord, by the reſt thou giveſt us, to ſerve thee more zealouſly with our renewed ſpi-

rits; that after the few days and nights we have to paſs in this world, we may come to thy eternal reſt with Chriſt Jeſus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A Morning Prayer

For a Family.

O merciful God and Father, art thou ſaying to thy poor offending children, "Seek ye my face?" and ſhall not our hearts reply, "Thy face, O Lord, "will we ſeek," and that with our whole hearts. Bleſſed are they whom thou chuſeſt and cauſeſt to approach unto thee. It is good for us to draw near unto thee, for thou art good to the ſouls that ſeek thee, and thou never ſaidſt to any of thy ſervants ſeek ye me in vain. Thou art rich in mercy, unto all that call upon thee, to all that call upon thee in truth. Behold what manner of love is this, that we ſhould be invited to come to thee as thy children. We come to plead thoſe gracious promiſes, on which thou haſt cauſed us to hope. Put thy laws into our minds, and write them in our hearts, and our

ſins and iniquities remember no more. It is thine own gracious promiſe, that if we walk in the light as thou art in the light, we ſhall have fellowſhip with thee the Father, and with thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt. O purify and ſanctify theſe ſinful hearts, and dwell in them by the influences of thy Holy Spirit. Give us that lively hope, which may make us purify ourſelves even as thou art pure, and that ardent love to thee, that will make us chearfully do thy will.

With our whole hearts have we ſought thee, O let us not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have we hid in our hearts, that we may not ſin againſt thee; we will delight ourſelves in thy ſtatutes, we will never forget thy word. Thy teſtimonies have we taken as our heritage for ever, for they are the rejoicing of our hearts: incline our hearts to perform them always, even unto the end.

O thou great rewarder of them that diligently ſeek thee! help us ſeriouſly to engage in thy ſervice, to run without wearineſs, and to walk without fainting; not ſlothful in buſineſs but fervent in

ſpirit, ſerving the Lord; exerciſing ourſelves unto godlineſs, continuing watchful in prayer, keeping our hearts with all diligence, ordering our converſation with all uſefulneſs, and running the race ſet before us with all chearfulneſs; full of life and ſpirit in thy work, and full of good fruits to thy honour; ever labouring to be accepted here to thy favour, and hereafter to thy glory; and for all this duty let us be ſtrengthened, O our God, with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man. Bleſſed be thy name, who haſt inſpired our hearts with theſe holy deſires and reſolutions; it is an earneſt, we hope, of thy never failing love towards us! Heavenly Father, it is our joy and glory, that we know thee, and that we live under the care of thy wiſe, mereiful, and almighty providence at preſent, and that we have the promiſe of remiſſion of ſins, and of a crown of life in thy preſence, where there is fullneſs of joy, and pleaſures for evermore. This is all our ſalvation, and all our deſire. We rejoice, heavenly Father, in thy love. Bleſs the Lord, O our ſouls, and all that is within us bleſs his holy

name. Bleſs the Lord with us ye heavenly hoſts, who rejoice over one ſinner that repenteth—ye miniſters of his that do his pleaſure; and O that this joy may increaſe continually; and while we increaſe in grace and holineſs, may the joy of the Lord be our ſtrength, and may we go from ſtrength to ſtrength, till at laſt we ſhall meet around thy throne, and enter into the joy of our Lord.

With theſe devout impreſſions we would go into the duties of this day. Let the doing of our duty be our pleaſure, and to ſerve thee be a great reward. Let a contented mind be inſtead of all that we want, and a thankful heart ſweeten all our enjoyments. May a humble ſubmiſſion to thy will preſerve in us a ſettled tranquillity of mind, and may our thoughts be much there while we live, where we deſire to be when we die. That heaven being our aim, our hope, and the longing expectation of our ſouls, we may conquer all difficulties in our way to it, and go through honour, and diſhonour, good report, and bad report, proſperity, and adverſity, with the

ſame chearfulneſs and evenneſs of mind, till at laſt we come to that place of reſt and peace, with the glorified Jeſus, who is able to do for us, abundantly above all that we can aſk, conceive or think; to waſh us from our ſins in his blood, to ſanctify us by his Spirit, and to make us unto our God, kings and prieſts; to him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

An Evening Prayer

For a Family.

O thou Father of mercies, and God of all comfort; how precious are thy thoughts towards us; how great is the ſum of them? This day, and every day of our lives, we have taſted largely of thy mercy, and lived ſtill upon thy fatherly care and bounty. Thou reneweſt thy favours continually, and art ſtill pouring upon us innumerable benefits; and O our God, we eſteem it one of the greateſt of thy favours that we have liberty to come into thy preſence, to call thee Father, and to make known our requeſts to thee by prayer and ſupplication, with thankſgiving. We ac-

cept, O Lord, with all thankfulneſs, this thy great grace and loving kindneſs to us; and here again, we proſtrate ourſelves before thee this evening, to acknowledge thy goodneſs in making us capable of knowing, and loving thee. To thee, therefore, be given by us, and all thy creatures, all honour, and praiſe, love and obedience, as long as we have any being. To thee would we devoutly reſign both ſoul and body, to be abſolutely governed and ruled according to thy holy will and pleaſure. We are heartily ſorry that we have not done it from the very beginning of our lives, till this time. We are aſhamed to think of our ingratitude in following our own deſires ſo long. We have done thoſe things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone thoſe things which we ought to have done, and there is no help in us. But our hope is in that infinite mercy that has ſpared us notwithſtanding, and opened our eyes to ſee our tranſgreſſions, and touched our hearts with ſorrow for ſin—in that love that has redeemed us with ſo rich a price.

And we hope not only for a pardon, which we earneſtly implore, according to thy promiſes in Chriſt Jeſus, but for the powerful aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to live as becomes thy children, and the diſciples of thy Son. O that it may ever be the joy of our hearts to be righteous as thou art righteous; to be merciful as thou our heavenly Father art merciful; to be holy as thou who haſt called us art holy in all manner of converſation. O that the memory of our bleſſed Saviour, and his admirable example, may be always dear to us; that we may chearfully follow him in his humility, meekneſs, patience, contentedneſs, peaceableneſs, and delight to do thy will, O God, in every thing as he did. Accept of our thanks for thy merciful preſervation of us all this day, and here we are before thee with a new load of thy benefits added to all the bleſſings thou haſt formerly beſtowed upon us; again we commit ourſelves to thy protection for this night, and truſt ourſelves to thy care, when we can take no care of ourſelves. Defend us from all evil, and raiſe us up in

the morning, in ſuch a ſenſe of thy goodneſs, as ſhall encourage us with unwearied diligence in well doing. Give huſbands and wives, parents and children, maſters and ſervants, the grace to behave themſelves aright in their ſeveral relations, that they may adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things; and being an honour to his religion here, may receive immortal honour and glory hereafter from the hands of Jeſus Chriſt our merciful Redeemer. Amen.

A Morning Prayer

For a Family.

Moſt gracious Father, we come to thee, encouraged by thy precepts and promiſes, and by the mediation of thy dear Son, to humble ourſelves at thy footſtool, by prayer and ſupplication with thankſgiving. It is our great privilege to have this liberty of acceſs to thee, and our beſt buſineſs and comfort to worſhip thee daily in our family.

We thank thee for making us capable of knowing and loving, ſerving and en-

joying thee. Though by our apoſtacy from thee, and rebellion againſt thee, we have deſtroyed ourſelves; yet, adored be thy mercy, in thee is our help found. We thank thee for laying help for us upon one who is mighty, and able to ſave to the uttermoſt all that come unto God by him. We thank thee, that Chriſt and ſalvation by him have been made in ſome degree precious to our ſouls. How great was thy mercy, which ſpared our lives, and kept us out of hell, while we were long going in the paths of the deſtroyer! How much greater was thy mercy, in bringing any of us to a ſerious ſenſe of our paſt ſinfulneſs, in awakening us to true repentance, and enabling us to ſeek after thy favour and friendſhip, as our higheſt happineſs!

But we have ill requited thee for all thy goodneſs and love. The ſins of our hearts and lives, of our childhood, youth, and riper age, teſtify againſt us. Long did we forget God and our ſouls, Chriſt and eternity, and live in ignorance and unbelief. We were long deceived by earthly vanities, and reſiſted too long

the motions of thy Holy Spirit. Even ſince any of us have known thee, and engaged ourſelves to thee, we have too often returned to folly, and have been negligent in loving and ſerving thee.

If thou, Lord, ſhouldeſt mark iniquities, O Lord, who ſhall ſtand? But there is forgiveneſs with thee, that thou mayeſt be feared. Waſh us in the blood, and accept us for the merits, of thy dear Son. We dare not come to God but in the name of Chriſt, nor expect any mercy but for his ſake. Give us thy Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts by faith, to fill us with heavenly love, and ſtrengthen us for all holy obedience. Let our thoughts and affections be fixed on God and Chriſt, on divine precepts and promiſes. Let grace regulate and ſanctify all our words and actions, our ſenſes, appetites and paſſions. Help us to love our neighbours as ourſelves, and to do all the good in our power, both to their ſouls and bodies. Take away our pride, and cloath us with humility, and put upon us the ornament of a meek and quiet ſpirit. Deliver us from every ſnare of ſin, and every hurt-

ful luſt. Eſpecially ſave us from the ſin that moſt eaſily beſets us.

We beſeech thee to favour us with all ſuitable helps for improving us in knowledge and holineſs, and add thy bleſſing to them. Make us faithful and circumſpect in all the duties of our ſeveral places and relations. Diſpoſe of all our worldly affairs as ſhall be moſt for thy glory, and the good of our ſouls. Mercifully recover thoſe that are in ſickneſs and pain, ſuccour the tempted, ſupply the neceſſitous, comfort the mourners, be a father to the fatherleſs, and a huſband to the widow, and a preſent help in every time of trouble.

We humbly adore and bleſs thee for all thine undeſerved and forfeited mercies to our ſouls and bodies; and particularly for our ſafety and repoſe the laſt night, and the health and comfort with which we bow at thy footſtool this morning. Keep us in thy fear, faith and love, all this day. Guard our ſouls from ſin, and our bodies from every thing that would hinder us in thy ſervice. We deſire to live as in thy preſence, and do all to pleaſe thee, and ſecure the ſal-

vation of our own and others ſouls, and to account this our higheſt honour and happineſs. We intreat thee to pardon our ſins, accept our ſervices, and give an anſwer of peace to our prayers, for the ſake of thy dear Son, our Redeemer and Saviour, who hath taught us to pray, Our Father, which art in heaven, &c. Amen.

An Evening Prayer

For a Family.

O thou high and lofty One, who inhabiteſt eternity, whoſe name is Holy, and who dwelleſt in the high and holy place! Thou haſt promiſed to dwell with humble and contrite ſpirits, to revive the ſpirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Invited by thy goodneſs, and conſtrained by our own neceſſities, we bow before thee, humbly confeſſing our ſins, with thankful acknowledgments of thy mercies, and earneſt cries for grace to help us in every time of need.

We mourn to think of our unconverted ſtate, and how long we walked

contrary to thy holy law, and gratified the inclinations of our corrupt and depraved nature. We have been lovers of ſinful pleaſure, more than lovers of God and holineſs; and have idolized the vanities of this periſhing world. We have abuſed thy patience, forbearance and long-ſuffering, by which thou haſt been leading us to repentance. We have hardened our hearts againſt the warnings of thy word and Spirit, thy providences and our own conſciences. We have put far from us the day of affliction and death. We have cared more for our bodies, than for our immortal ſouls; and for the things of time, than how to be ſaved from hell, and live with Chriſt in heavenly glory. We have contented ourſelves with the form of godlineſs, without the life and power of it. If any of us have been turned from ſin to holineſs, from darkneſs to light, and from the power of ſatan to God; how long did we reſiſt thy Spirit and grace, and hinder our own converſion! If any of us are engaged in the bonds of thy covenant, yet alas! how cold is our love, how inconſtant our obedience, and

how wavering and divided are our hearts! We have too little differed in temper and converſation from the ungodly, and hence it is that we have taſted ſo little of the joys of thy ſalvation.

But, O God! viſit our ſouls with thy forgiving love. Though our ſins deſerve thine eternal wrath, yet thy Son hath died for us, and in him there is infinite worthineſs. For his ſake, juſtify us by thy grace, adopt us into thy family, and make us partakers of the divine nature. Let thy Holy Spirit fill our minds with faith and wiſdom, and our hearts with holineſs and love; even with love to thyſelf, thy Son, thy word and ways, and to all that bear thy holy image. Let the thoughts of thy love to us in Chriſt, of our pardon and peace with thee, and of the promiſed heavenly joys, be our daily cordial under all the afflictions and ſorrows of life. Teach us to redeem our precious time, to lay up treaſure in heaven, and to ſeek firſt the kingdom of God and his righteouſneſs, and to truſt thy promiſe, that all other things ſhall be added to us, ſo far as they are for our

good and thy glory. Help us to bear all ſufferings with faith, hope and patience. Make us conquerors over every temptation, and preſerve us to thy heavenly kingdom.

Let thy bleſſing be on this family, on all our bodies and ſouls, on all our cares and concerns. Ever keep us in love and peace, and in every holy duty to thee and to one another. We thank thee for the mercies of our paſt lives, and particularly of this day. Thou haſt favoured us with another day for repentance, and preparation for death and eternity. Lord, forgive all our ſins of omiſſion and commiſſion. Protect us this night from every evil. Refreſh us with reſt in ſleep. Let our meditation be of thee in the night-watches, and let thy comforts ever delight our ſouls. Prepare us for the duties and events of the morrow. May we live every day in thy fear, and to thy glory; that we may live with thee in a glorious eternal day, where there ſhall be night no more for ever. Hear and anſwer us in all our imperfect petitions and ſupplications, for the ſake of our all-prevailing Inter-

ceſſor; O thou Our Father, which art in heaven, &c. Amen.

A Family Prayer

For the Lord's Day Morning.

Glorious Jehovah! thou art infinitely above the praiſes of angels, and much more of ſinful mortals. They that are far from thee ſhall periſh; but it is good for us to draw near to thee. Thy mercy has appointed this holy day, that thy love and praiſe may employ our minds, and be a foretaſte of our eternal reſt. Breathe upon us the Spirit of light, life and love, quicken us to this heavenly work, and accept us in it, through thy dear Son.

Thou art the King eternal, immortal and inviſible, the only wiſe, living and true God, the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. Thou didſt make all things out of nothing by the word of thy power, and doſt every moment ſupport and preſerve the works of thine hand. How manifold are thy works, O Lord, in wiſdom haſt thou made them all! Thou haſt made man the nobleſt inhabitant of this lower world, but a lit-

tle beneath angels, even with capacities for knowing, loving and ſerving thee. Thou waſt his Father, benefactor and chief good, to engage him to thyſelf in reſignation, love and obedience. Thou gaveſt him a holy, juſt and good law, that he might pleaſe and enjoy thee. But man ſoon loſt his purity and excellence by departing from thee. Thus did man fooliſhly requite the Lord, and forſake the rock of his ſalvation. Thus by one man ſin entered into the world, and death by ſin. But how did thy mercy rejoice againſt judgment! How didſt thou add to the ſentence of death, the promiſe of a Redeemer! According to thy promiſe, Jeſus took upon him the form of a ſervant, and was made in the likeneſs of men. O wonderful condeſcending love! Angels proclaimed it, and with adoration looked into it. How ſhould we then bow at thy footſtool in ſelf abaſement, and riſe high in thankful praiſes this day, not only for creating power and goodneſs, but for redeeming grace and love!

Adored be our Immanuel! He came as the Light and Life of the world. He

was holy, harmleſs, undefiled and ſeparate from ſinners, for ſuch an High Prieſt became us. He taught us by his perfect doctrine and example. He made himſelf by his ſufferings and death a ſacrifice and propitiation for our ſins. O matchleſs love, that for enemies he ſhould lay down his precious life! He hath conquered and ſanctified death and the grave to all believers. He hath procured for us a covenant of grace; and ſealed it with his blood. Now, O Father, there is forgive eſs with thee, that thou mayeſt be feared. Thou haſt ſo loved the world, as to give thine only begotten Son, that whoſoever believeth in him, might not periſh, but have everlaſting life. Thou waſt in Chriſt, reconciling the world unto thyſelf, not imputing to penitent and believing ſinners their iniquities. Thou art, by thy miniſters, beſeeching ſinners, in Chriſt's ſtead, to be reconciled to thee. Thou refuſeſt none that come to thee by Chriſt. To as many as receive him, thou giveſt power to become the ſons of God. With what manner of love haſt thou loved guilty rebels, to

make them friends and favourites; even heirs of heaven, and joint heirs with Chriſt!

O that our ſouls could with greater thankfulneſs magnify the Lord, and our ſpirits rejoice in God our ſaviour! Thou art to be reverenced in the aſſemblies of thy ſaints, and to be honoured of all that are about thee. A day in thy courts is better than a thouſand; we had rather be door-keepers in the houſe of God, than dwell in the palaces of wickedneſs. When we lived as without thee in the world, thou didſt pity us, and make thy word and worſhip effectual, as ſome of us have reaſon to hope, for our converſion and regeneration. How freely didſt thou pardon us! How graciouſly didſt thou ſhew mercy to us, and overcome our hearts with thy love! What a bleſſed change hath thy Spirit wrought in our minds! How many preſervations and comforts haſt thou afforded us! How many afflictions haſt thou moderated and ſanctified! What delightful communion have we had with thee in ſecret, and in ſocial worſhip! How precious are thy thoughts unto us, O God! How great

is the ſum of them! Thou, who haſt given us grace, wilt give us glory too. Theſe foretaſtes of love aſſure us, that we ſhall be happy with thee for ever. Our hope in thy mercy, thy Son, thy covenant, will not make us aſhamed. O how far will the praiſes of the everlaſting ſabbath excel theſe feeble ſervices! Quicken, Lord, our deſires after that bleſſed day. Come, Lord Jeſus, come quickly, that we may behold thy glory.

While ſabbaths on earth are continued, Lord, make them a bleſſing to our ſouls. Aſſiſt us in all the religious ſervices of this holy day. Let thy gracious preſence go with us to the ſolemn aſſembly. Help us againſt our manifold infirmities, and the ſins that moſt eaſily beſet us in our attendance upon thee. Let thy word be as good ſeed in our hearts, taking root there, and bringing forth fruit to thy glory and our eternal ſalvation. Let our prayers and praiſes be ſpiritual ſacrifices, acceptable in thy ſight through Jeſus Chriſt.

This day ride forth in the chariot of thy everlaſting goſpel conquering and to conquer. Let heathen nations be brought

to acknowledge their Creator and Redeemer. In all thy churches let the arm of the Lord be revealed, ſinners be converted, and ſaints be edified in their moſt holy faith. Continue the goſpel in our own land, and give it more abundant ſucceſs. Bleſs the king, and all in authority, with wiſdom and holineſs, and zealous concern for the honour of God and the advancement of real religion. Make the miniſters of the goſpel faithful to Chriſt and ſouls, as thoſe that muſt give an account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief.

Heal the ſick; eaſe the pained; ſuccour the tempted; ſupply the neceſſitous; be a father to the fatherleſs and a huſband to the widow in thy holy habitation. If afflictions detain any from the publick ſolemnities of thy day, let them enjoy thy gracious preſence in their own dwellings. Fit the dying for a glorious ſabbath above. Compleat the number of thy elect, and haſten thy heavenly kingdom.

Bleſſed be God, that we are in health and comfort, to engage in the duties, and enjoy the privileges of this ſabbath,

Leave us not to barren hearts and wandering thoughts and affections. But let our converſation be in heaven, from whence we look for our glorious Redeemer, whom having not ſeen, we love, in whom though now we ſee him not, yet believing, may we rejoice with joy unſpeakable and full of glory. For his ſake we beſeech thee to hear us, O thou, Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

A Family Prayer

For the Lord's Day Evening.

Bleſſed and glorious majeſty, we deſire humbly to adore thee, as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, and through him as our reconciled God and Father. We have none in heaven but thee, and there is nothing upon earth we deſire beſide thee. Thy favour is life, and thy loving kindneſs is better than life. Thou haſt given us all things richly to enjoy, pertaining both to life and godlineſs. Every day haſt thou loaded us with thy benefits. This thy holy day has been eſpe-

cially bleſſed to our ſouls. Thou haſt taught us the knowledge of thyſelf and of thy dear ſon, whom to know is life eternal. Thou haſt ſet before us life and death, bleſſing and curſing, good and evil, that we might fly from the wrath to come, and ſecure the bleſſings of thy people. Thou haſt ſhewed us the evil of ſin, the danger of an unconverted ſtate, and the riches of pardoning grace and love. Thou haſt invited us by thy precious promiſes, and haſt opened to our view the glories of thy heavenly kingdom. Holineſs has in ſome degree appeared to us in its beauty, ſin in its deformity, Chriſt in his all-ſufficiency to ſave, and thy Holy Spirit in his gracious influences to renew our natures, and fit us for a perfect ſabbath at thy right hand.

Adored be thine infinite mercy, that any of us have experienced thy recovering grace! Thou haſt plucked us as brands out of the burning. Thy pardoning love hath delivered us from guilt and condemnation. Our ſouls have found a refuge from thine eternal wrath. To us thy promiſes are all yea

and amen in Chriſt Jeſus. Satan, the world, and death are overcome for us. O death! where is thy ſting? O grave! where is thy victory? Becauſe Chriſt lives, we ſhall live alſo. Becauſe our head is glorified, we ſhall be glorified with him. Once we were dead in ſin, but are now quickened to ſpiritual life. Long were we in ignorance and unbelief, but are now light in the Lord. Too long were we carnal, ſold under ſin, but the Holy Spirit hath renewed us in the law of our mind. Bleſſed be the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who hath bleſſed us with all ſpiritual bleſſings in heavenly things in Chriſt. O that every ſoul of us, not one excepted, may bear for itſelf a joyful part in theſe thankſgivings and praiſes!

And why, Lord, are we regenerated and ſanctified, but to love, and praiſe, and ſerve thee? We beſeech thee, perfect our weak and languid graces. Make us more holy and heavenly, and bring us nearer to thyſelf in faith and love, that we may riſe higher in thy praiſes.

Lord, pardon the ſins of our holy things. Sprinkle our perſons and ſer-

vices with the all-atoning blood of Jeſus. Mortify our pride, and clothe us with humility, that when we have done all our duties, we may account ourſelves unprofitable ſervants. Make us meek and patient, ſerious and ſober-minded. Give us grace to keep under our body, and bring it into ſubjection, that we may poſſeſs our veſſels in ſanctification and honour. Let the love of the world be rooted out of our hearts, and ſhed abroad thy love there by the Holy Spirit given unto us. Mortify in us all envy, hatred, malice, and uncharitableneſs, and help us to love all men, and eſpecially our fellow chriſtians; with a pure heart fervently. What we know not, teach us, and wherein we have done iniquity, help us to do ſo no more. Fix our affections on things above, and let time and the things of time be as nothing to us compared with eternal glory. Fit us for every thing between this and the grave; every ſervice or ſuffering, every temptation and conflict. In all conditions and relations may we glorify thee, keep a good conſcience, and welcome thy whole will with a lively hope and

holy joy in thy ſalvation by Jeſus Chriſt. When we come to die, may we have clear evidences for heaven, finiſh our courſe with joy, and an entrance be miniſtered unto us abundantly into the everlaſting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour.

Graciouſly afford us every perſonal and family bleſſing. Take us under thy protection this night. Be with us in all our ways through the following week. Help us to carry with us into every day, duty, and occurrence, the temper and ſentiments of thy day. May we by this ſabbath be brought nearer to, and made fitter for, a glorious eternal ſabbath. Having joyfully remembered our Lord's reſurrection, may we more ardently look for and haſten to his laſt coming, and our appearance with him in glory. In him may we be found and accepted, both living and dying; and to him with thyſelf, O Father, and the Spirit of grace and conſolation, be honour and glory, dominion and praiſe, for ever. Amen.

Confessional Prayer

For a Family.

With ſorrowful, humble, and penitent hearts, we caſt ourſelves down before thee, O moſt holy and merciful Father, confeſſing that we have ſinned againſt heaven and in thy ſight, and are no more worthy to be called thy children: we remember, in the bitterneſs of our ſouls, how many obligations thou haſt laid upon us to love and ſerve thee; how often have we acknowledged the wiſdom and goodneſs of thy commands; and how frequently have we promiſed and vowed to conform ourſelves to them! and yet again and again has the ſlighteſt temptation drawn us aſide from thy way. But again would we return unto thee, ſaying—take away from us all iniquity, receive us graciouſly, and love us freely; withdraw not the ſweet influence of thy Holy Spirit from thy unworthy ſervants, who entirely confide in thy mercy; hide not thy face from us; put not away thy ſervants in anger. Haſt thou not pro-

miſed to give power to the faint, and to increaſe the ſtrength of them that have no might? We deſire not only pardon of our ſins, but a divine power to enable us to ſubdue them; and that our repentance may be ſuch as need not be repented of. We deſire no peace, O Lord, but in keeping thy law. O ſettle us, we beſeech thee, in this holy diſpoſition, that we may be kept in thy favour and love, by a happy agreement with thy will and pleaſure in all things. Sanctify our underſtandings, that we may rightly conceive thy holy truths, and fully apprehend them: ſanctify our memory, that we may keep in mind all that we know of thee, and of thy bleſſed will, revealed to us in Chriſt Jeſus our Lord. Sanctify our will, that it may chearfully embrace, and entirely conſent to thine in all things; and ſanctify all our affections, that we may love thee with all our heart, and ſoul, and ſtrength, and delight in thee more than in all the pleaſures of this life. Sanctify our paſſions, that we may be angry at nothing ſo much as having diſpleaſed thee. Sanctify us throughout in body,

as well as in ſpirit, that we may poſſeſs it in holineſs, and honour; and may all our ſenſes adminiſter occaſion to our minds to remember thee, to praiſe thee, and to bleſs thee. Fortify our wills with the power of thy divine love, that we may overcome all ſenſual affections, and poſſeſs us with ſuch a lively hope of thoſe good things which Chriſt has promiſed in the other life, that it may make us active and zealous, ſtedfaſt and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labour ſhall not be in vain in the Lord. Thou knoweſt the ſecrets of all hearts; let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us according as we cleave to thee with purpoſe of heart. "O caſt us not away "from thy preſence, and take not thy "Holy Spirit from us. Create in us "clean hearts, and renew right ſpirits "within us. Make our hearts ſound in "thy ſtatutes, that we may never be "aſhamed. Keep back thy ſervants "alſo from preſumptuous ſins, let them "not have dominion over us: Let the "words of our mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, be accepted in thy

"ſight, O Lord, our ſtrength and our "Redeemer." Amen.

A Family Prayer

For Holineſs.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, neither ſhall ſin dwell with thee. In the ſacrifice of thy beloved Son, thou haſt ſhewn thy hatred to ſin, and thy love of holineſs; he came to put away ſin, and to bring in everlaſting righteouſneſs: to purify us unto himſelf as a peculiar people, zealous of good works. O our God, create us anew in Chriſt Jeſus, and enable us to hunger and thirſt after righteouſneſs. We believe that all things are naked and open before thee, that thou canſt not be deceived by any ſpecious pretences to piety, when the heart is not right toward thee; O thou ſearcher of hearts, we know that we muſt appear before thee without diſguiſe; O let our hearts be ſound in thy ſtatutes. Let the knowledge of thy holineſs teach us to deny all ungodlineſs and fleſhly luſts, and to

perfect holineſs in thy fear. O mortify and deſtroy in us every rebellious motion, every vicious inclination, that exalts itſelf againſt the holy precepts of thy goſpel, that gives Satan advantage over us, and hinders our bleſſed Redeemer from reigning as King ſupreme in our hearts. Let not ſin reign any longer in us, that we ſhould obey it in the luſts thereof; but help us, Lord, to cut off the right hand, and to pluck out the right eye, to keep under our body, and bring it into ſubjection. Help us, O God of our ſalvation, againſt the ſins that moſt eaſily beſet us. Let not ſinful fleſh, but thy heavenly Spirit and grace guide and govern us. Gird us, O our God, with might for this ſpiritual conflict, and enable us to go on conquering and to conquer. O make us ever jealous over our hearts, and watchful over our ways: mortify our pride, and clothe us with humility; mortify our paſſions, and put on us the ornament of a meek and quiet ſpirit; pluck up every root of bitterneſs out of our minds, and make us kind, tender-hearted, as becomes the followers of Jeſus. May we put on the

Lord Jeſus, not in name and profeſſion only, but ſo as to walk in him. We would put on his purity, his ſelf-denial, his meekneſs, his patience, his bowels of kindneſs, his ſubmiſſion to his heavenly Father's will, his love to God and man. Thus may we ſhew forth thy praiſe, who haſt called us out of darkneſs into marvellous light, and tranſlated us out of the kingdom of ſatan, into the kingdom of thy dear Son. Thus may we be training up for that ſtate, where holineſs ſhall be perfected, where we ſhall behold thy face in righteouſneſs, and be ſatisfied when we awake in thy likeneſs.

Let holineſs to the Lord be written upon this houſe, and upon every heart under this roof. Let ſin have no dominion here; but let every ſoul be a temple for thy Holy Spirit to dwell in. Here let the fruits of righteouſneſs grow to thy praiſe and glory; and may we all at laſt appear among the redeemed of the Lord, "who have waſhed their "robes and made them white in the "blood of the Lamb." Amen.

A Family Prayer

For Increaſe of Grace.

O God of all grace, who gave thy beloved Son that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly; of his fulneſs may we receive grace ſufficient for us, to make us ſtrong in the Lord, and ready to every good work. Thy people go from ſtrength to ſtrength, growing in grace, till they appear before thee in glory; and the path of the juſt is as the ſhining light, ſhining more and more unto the perfect day. But O Lord, how barren and unfruitful have we been among the trees of righteouſneſs, how weak are we ſtill in our ſpiritual eſtate! O how ſmall is our will and ſtrength to that which is good! how much are we behind many of thy ſervants in the chriſtian race. O our God, we have not well improved the talents which thou haſt put into our hands, nor anſwered the care and kindneſs of heaven, which we have ſo long experienced. We are aſhamed that ſo many mercies have been loſt upon us.

Forgive us, O Lord, and repair thy holy image in us. O help us more and more to put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful luſts, and to put on the new man, which after God is created in righteouſneſs and true holineſs. Whatever elſe we want, Lord, deny us not thy grace, but increaſe it in us more and more; yea let the graces of thy Spirit that accompany ſalvation, ſo flouriſh in our ſouls, that the peace of God, which paſſeth all underſtanding, may keep our hearts and minds, through Chriſt Jeſus. Bleſſed Jeſus, our life, our ſtrength, and our Redeemer! ſtrengthen in us, we beſeech thee, the things that remain and are ready to die, and cheriſh all the ſeeds of grace ſown in our hearts, that our ſouls may proſper and increaſe with the increaſe of God, growing in knowledge and grace, and abounding in all the fruits of righteouſneſs which are by Jeſus Chriſt, to the glory and praiſe of God; that ſo we may be fully ſatisfied of the truth of thy grace in us, by its growing upon us. O Lord! carry on with power the work of faith and ſanctification in our ſouls,

that our ſinful corruptions may grow weaker and weaker every day, and thy grace ſtronger and ſtronger. Let it take more entire poſſeſſion of our ſouls, ſubduing every corrupt affection, every proud thought, and bringing all to the obedience of faith. Let grace ſo prevail in our hearts, as to make the exerciſes of it eaſy and delightful, regular and conſtant, and may the ſins that moſt eaſily beſet us be more and more ſubdued. Is it pride? O let it be mortified, however painful we may feel it—till we think of ourſelves no more highly than we ought to think, till we can bear injuries, and ſlight, and contempt, with meekneſs, as followers of the meek and humble Jeſus; and may we be cloathed with humility. Thus may every ſin be more ſubdued, and every grace growing and abounding within us; and forgetting the things that are behind, may we preſs forward, till we come to the meaſure of the ſtature of the fulneſs of Chriſt.

And thus may every member of this family be growing in grace; may the young grow in grace, while they grow

in ſtature, and while their outward man is flouriſhing in health and vigour, may their ſouls be in health and proſper. May the aged ſtill bear fruit to the praiſe and glory of God, till they ſhall be gathered in their ſeaſon fully ripe. Thus may grace ſpread itſelf over all our hearts, uniting us in love, and preparing us for the family of heaven, where grace ſhall be ripened into glory. Amen.

A Prayer

For power to live by faith upon Chriſt, and the Divine Promiſes.

Bleſſed be thy glorious name, O God of all grace, who of thy abundant mercy haſt provided a Saviour for loſt ſinners! It is thy own command, that thoſe who believe in God ſhould believe alſo in him. "This is life eternal, to know "thee the only true God, and Jeſus "Chriſt whom thou haſt ſent—whom "to know, is life eternal:" In all we do we feel our need of this Saviour. The bleſſed Jeſus is our life and ſtrength; our wiſdom, righteouſneſs,

ſanctification, and redemption; our health and joy, our glory and our all. There is no healing for our ſouls, but in his blood; no peace for our conſcience, but in his reconciling us to God. None but Chriſt—O none but Chriſt! Without this all-ſufficient Redeemer, we are loſt for ever. We beſeech thee, therefore, O Lord, whatever elſe we want, leave us not deſtitute of this Saviour, whom thou art pleaſed to hold forth even to the moſt ſinful and unworthy. We thankfully accept of his invitation to the weary and heavy laden. We would come to be eaſed of this burden of ſin; we would take of the water of life, which is offered without money, and without price: O make us more acquainted with this gracious way of ſalvation, and may we ſubmit ourſelves to the righteouſneſs of God.

Dear Lord, give us thy Son to ſave us, and thy Spirit to draw us to him; and enable us to take hold of him, to rely upon him, and to believe in him to the ſaving of the ſoul. May we never diſtruſt his power, or his love; nor be faithleſs, but believing, that "he is able

" to ſave unto the uttermoſt, all that " come unto God by him." To him would we bring our guilty ſouls, to be waſhed in his blood, and ſanctified by his Spirit; and let us have " peace with " God, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt." O that Chriſt may dwell in our hearts by faith; and that " the life we now " live, may be by the faith of the Son " of God, who loved us, and gave him- " ſelf for us;" " in whom, though now " we ſee him not, yet believing, may we " rejoice with joy unſpeakable, and full " of glory." It is thy gracious promiſe, Lord, to blot out thy people's tranſgreſſions, to heal their backſlidings, not to remember their ſins, nor let ſin have dominion over them—to give to thy ſervants a heart of fleſh, a new heart, and a new ſpirit, to teach and quicken them; to put thy Spirit within them, and cauſe them to walk in thy ſtatutes, to perform the good work in them, and though they fall, to uphold them with thy right hand, and to let none pluck them out of it; to put thy fear in their hearts, that they may not depart from thee; to preſerve them un-

to thy heavenly kingdom, and give unto them eternal life!

O exceeding great and precious promiſes! let us lay up thy kind words of promiſe, O our Father, as the richeſt treaſure; and deſpiſe all the pleaſures of this world, in compariſon of thyſelf, and thy Son, and thy Spirit, thy love, and thy grace, and glory. "Now to "him who hath loved us, and given "himſelf for us, to him be glory for "ever and ever."

Are there any before thee ſtrangers to theſe precious promiſes? alienated from the life of God; and going aſtray like loſt ſheep! O thou Shepherd and lover of ſouls, thou canſt ſeek them and bring them back, though they ſeek thee not; thy cords of love can draw them, or thy terrors can drive them into thy fold. Turn them, O Lord, and they ſhall be turned. We would plead for them at the footſtool of thy grace, that thoſe who are near and dear to us, may be joined with us in the bonds of thine everlaſting covenant. Amen.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

For a Family.

O moſt High and Holy One, who inhabiteth eternity, and art God over all, bleſſed for evermore! happy are they who ſtand continually in thy preſence, and are always admiring, loving, and obeying thee, and rejoicing in thy love and favour. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive from us, and from the whole world, bleſſing, and honour, and glory, and power, for thou art great, and greatly to be praiſed. All the hoſt of heaven continually praiſe thee; and ſo ought all the church on earth, ſaying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Al-"mighty, which is, which was, and is "to come!"

There is none holy as the Lord. "Thou art righteous in all thy ways, "and holy in all thy works." "Thou "loveſt righteouſneſs, and hateſt ini-"quity." "The earth is thine, and the "fulneſs thereof, the world, and they "that dwell therein." "The heavens "declare the glory of God, the firma-

"ment ſheweth his handy-work." Paaiſed be thy ſovereign goodneſs, which ſpreads itſelf over all thy works! "O Lord, how manifold are thy works, "in wiſdom haſt thou made them all; "and they all wait on thee, that thou "mayeſt give them their meat in due "ſeaſon." "Thou openeſt thine hand, "they are filled with good." O how much have we to ſay of the goodneſs of the Lord by our own experience; how ſweet and how wonderful is it to recount all the inſtances of thy patience with us, and thy bounty to us! In the day of trouble thou haſt been our defence, and our refuge. In our diſtreſs we cried unto thee, and thou haſt enlarged us. Bleſſed be God, who haſt not caſt away our prayer, nor his mercy from us. When our feet have ſlipped, thy mercy, O Lord, held us up; and when we were afar off, thou haſt brought us nigh. "O the height, the depth, the "length, of thy love in Chriſt Jeſus." That thou ſhouldeſt "ſo love the world, "as to give thy well-beloved Son," to make peace for us through the blood of his croſs. Bleſſed be thy name for all

the means whereby we have been led to the knowledge of thy great love in Chriſt Jeſus, which paſſeth knowledge. We glorify thee, O heavenly Father, if thou haſt "ſhined into our hearts to give the "knowledge of the glory of God in the "face of Jeſus Chriſt." Glory be to thee, O God, for the gracious viſitations of thy Holy Spirit, enlightening our minds, drawing our will towards thee, exciting in us holy deſires, and forming pious purpoſes and reſolutions in our hearts; giving us a taſte how gracious thou art, and ſetting before us the hopes of eternal life. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord, who can ſhew forth all his praiſe? How often haſt thou ſpared us when we deſerved thine anger! How many dangers have we eſcaped! From how many aſſaults of the enemy have we been guarded! and how many of his deſigns have been defeated by an inviſible and undeſerved goodneſs. O how great ought our joy to be in thy love, and in thy ſalvation. To thee, O Lord, ought we to reſign ourſelves with the greateſt willingneſs of heart, to hope and truſt in thee at all

times, and to ſtudy to glorify thee more and more, with our bodies and ſouls, which are thine. We deſire no greater honour in this world, than to live to the praiſe and the glory of thy grace in Chriſt Jeſus. Walking worthy of him who hath called us to thy kingdom and glory. Bleſſed be the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt from everlaſting to everlaſting; and O may every heart before thee join in theſe ſongs of praiſe. Thus would we bleſs thee while we live, we would praiſe thee while we have any being! Let the young praiſe thee, for thou art the guide of their youth—let the old praiſe thee, for thou art the length of their days—let all praiſe thee, for thy mercy endureth for ever and ever! Amen.

A Prayer

For a Family under Affliction.

O thou infinitely great and glorious God! thou killeſt and makeſt alive; thou woundeſt and thou healeſt; thou bringeſt down to the grave, and bringeſt

back again. Thou doſt according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can ſtay thine hand or ſay unto thee, "What doeſt thou?" Yet righteous art thou in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Even when thou afflicteſt and cauſeſt trouble and heavineſs to fall upon us, it is that we may learn righteouſneſs from thy judgments, and receive profit from thy correction. And O our God, though thou haſt now viſited our houſe with ſickneſs, and art calling us to humiliation for our ſins, yet we would ſtill ſpeak well of thy name, and love and bleſs thee. We deſire in the midſt of judgment to remember thy mercies. How long have each of our family lain down and riſen up, gone out and come in, in health, ſtrength, and peace. How long has the candle of the Lord ſhone upon us without intermiſſion. For theſe multiplied favours, bleſſed, O Lord, be thy good and holy name. And ſhall we receive ſo much good at thy hand, and ſhall we not receive evil alſo? The cup which our heavenly Father hath

given us, ſhall we not drink it? We humbly take it from thine hands, O our God, in a full perſuaſion of thy fatherly love. We deſire to reſign all our thoughts and deſires unto thee. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, bleſſed be the name of the Lord. Bleſſed be thy name that thou haſt continued ſo long, the enjoyments thou now calleſt us to reſign; and bleſſed be thy name, if by reſigning our will to thine we can teſtify our faith in thee, and affection to thee. We have nothing too great or too dear to reſign to thee, from whoſe bountiful hand we have received our all. O that no repining thought may ariſe in our hearts to diſorder or diſcompoſe our duty to thee, or towards our neighbour; but help us rather to think wherein we have offended thee; and wherein we have done iniquity, to do ſo no more. Let us place our affections more ſtedfaſtly on things above, and to lay up our treaſure and hope in heaven, where our "life is hid with Chriſt in "God:" We thank thee, O Father of mercies, that thou haſt given us ſuch everlaſting conſolation through thy grace

in Christ Jesus. We will praise thy name for ever, for those exceeding great and precious promises which are our support and comfort in all the troubles of this life. Increase our faith, strengthen and confirm our hope, and raise up our spirits continually to that blessed place where Jesus is, that we may rejoice in hope of that immortal life where all tears shall be wiped away from our eyes, where sighing, and sorrow, shall never enter, and where, through the riches of divine grace we hope to follow those who are now through faith and patience inheriting the promises, and where we hope to join together in praising that wise and merciful Providence, which by ways most contrary to our desires, brought us to endless and undisturbed bliss.

Keep us, O our God, in a humble, quiet, and dutiful submission to thee, waiting for that peaceful and joyful repose in the eternal rest, which thou hast prepared for thy people through thy mercies in Christ Jesus; by whom all glory, honour, love, and obedience,

be rendered thee both now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayer

Of an awakened Sinner.

O God! how awful art thou in thy holineſs and juſtice! Yet thou art gracious and ready to receive every penitent and believing ſinner. Here am I, proſtrate before thee, in hope of thy pardoning and ſaving mercy. I hear of Jeſus Chriſt, and of his merits, mediation and interceſſion. I am taught the neceſſity of repentance, and of being converted and born again, and that without holineſs none ſhall ſee thy face. I am convinced, Lord, of thy right to me, and to all the love and obedience of my heart and life, becauſe thou art my Creator and Benefactor. I am convinced that thy laws are holy, juſt and good. I am convinced of the ſinfulneſs of ſin, the vileneſs of my heart, the abominations of my life, the vanity of this world; and that thou only art able to be the portion and happineſs of my ſoul. I ſee there is no hope for me, but in a ſincere return to

thee by repentance, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

But I fear lest the hardness of my heart, and the power of unbelief and of worldly lusts, should prevail against all my convictions. O that I had a heart to love thee above all the world, and to delight in thy holy ways, more than in all the pleasures of sin! O that I had a heart to believe in Christ, and to live by faith and not by sight! I have corrupted this heart, but I cannot renew it. I have defiled it, but I cannot cleanse it. I have kindled in it the fire of lust, but I cannot quench it. I have undone myself, rejected my Saviour, and resisted the Holy Spirit; and is there mercy yet for me?

Have pity upon me, O God, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. I have sinned, like a frail and foolish man, but do thou have mercy on me, as a gracious God. My sin hath abounded, let thy grace much more abound. Christ with infinite expence hath redeemed souls; and that revives my hope. "Create in me a clean "heart, O God! and renew a right

" ſpirit within me." Turn this heart of ſtone into a new and tender heart. Fill this preſumptuous heart with a neceſſary care for my own ſalvation. I ſee my duty, and yet have not a heart to do it. I ſee my danger, and run upon it. I foreſee death and judgment, without flying to Chriſt, and redeeming my precious moments. My work is undone, my ſoul is unready, and if I die this night, where ſhall I awake? Thy mercy hath long kept me out of hell. Do thou, O mighty God, who didſt raiſe Jeſus Chriſt from the dead, revive and raiſe me from the death of ſin to the life of righteouſneſs, as thou haſt done for millions of ſinners.

Lord, heal this evil heart of unbelief, which hath ſlighted Chriſt, and departed from the living God. Thou haſt left me a promiſe of entering into heavenly reſt, but leave me not to fall ſhort of it by unbelief. Touch this heart with a deep ſenſe of thy love. Kindle in it this heavenly fire. Let the Spirit of love fix my ſoul on the wonderful love of Chriſt, on Chriſt crucified, on an aſcended, glorified, and interceding Sa-

viour, till I am all love to him that died for me. Thou haſt promiſed to give thy Holy Spirit to them that aſk it. Deny me not the grace which thou haſt bid me aſk, nor the holineſs which is thy delight, and without which I ſhall continue thine enemy to my deſtruction. Thou haſt ſworn, that thou haſt no pleaſure in the death of the wicked, but that he turn and live. Let thy mercy ſpare me. Let thy grace be effectual for my ſpiritual and eternal life. Let me live the life of grace here, that I may live the life of glory for ever. Look from my guilt and miſery to the merits, mediation and interceſſion of my living Redeemer. Hoping and truſting only in his precious name, I ſmite upon my breaſt, and cry, "God be merciful to "me a ſinner!" Amen and Amen.

PRAYER

For a Penitent Sinner.

O thou Father of mercies, and God of all grace, look down, I beſeech thee, with an eye of pity and compaſſion upon a poor ſinner who is proſtrate at the

footſtool of thy grace: Had I lived to thoſe high and holy ends for which I was created and redeemed, I might now have come to thee with the boldneſs and confidence of a child; but, alas! I have forgotten the God that made me, and the Saviour that came to redeem me; I have forgotten the buſineſs for which I was ſent into the world, and that endleſs glory for which I was made. O the precious time that I have loſt, which all the world cannot call back, and the manifold mercies which I have abuſed!

Alas! what have I been doing ſince I came into the world? Folly and ſin have taken up my time: to pleaſe my fancy and my luſt I have ſet light by all the joys of heaven: I have deſpiſed the goodneſs of my Maker, and ſlighted the love and grace of a Redeemer! I have reſiſted thy Holy Spirit, ſilenced my own conſcience, and turned a deaf ear to the gracious invitations of thy goſpel! Thou knoweſt my ſecret ſins, O Lord, with all their aggravations! I am convinced, O Lord, that thou art my Creator and Owner, and that all I am and have ſhould

be uſed for thy glory,—that thy laws are holy, juſt and good. I am convinced that I ſhould love thee with all my heart, and mind, and ſtrength,—and I am convinced that by forſaking thee, I have forſaken my own happineſs, and deſerve to be for ever caſt from thy preſence.

When I look upon my defiled and corrupt heart I am ready to deſpair.—But, O my God, when I look to thine abundant mercy,—to thy Son, and to thy covenant,—I have hope. Thy goodneſs is equal to thy greatneſs. O God, be merciful to me a ſinner, for thy abundant mercy, and for the ſacrifice and merits of thy Son. O thou that haſt opened ſo precious a fountain for ſin and for uncleanneſs, waſh me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanſe me from my ſins. Thou haſt no pleaſure in the death of a ſinner, but would rather that they repent and live; O ſoften this hardened and flinty heart, and give me repentance unto life. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right ſpirit within me.—Thou wilt not meet a returning prodigal with thy

wrath, but with the embraces of thy tender mercy. Father, I have ſinned againſt heaven and in thy ſight, and am no more worthy to be called thine; but take me, I intreat thee, into the meaneſt place in thy family, and glorify thy grace in my forgiveneſs. Amen.

Second Part.

O my God! I aſk not for liberty to ſin again, but for deliverance from this ſinning nature. Give me the renewing Spirit of thy Son, which may ſanctify all the powers of my ſoul. Let me have the new and heavenly nature, to transform me to thine image, that I may be holy, as thou art holy. O fill me with thy love, that the remembrance of thee may be my chief delight. Let my firſt and ſweeteſt thoughts be of thee, of thy glory and kingdom, of thy word and ways. Let my treaſure be laid up in heaven, and there let me daily and delightfully converſe! make it the daily buſineſs of my ſoul, to pleaſe thee, and do thy will. Put thy fear into my heart, that I may never depart

from thee. This world has had too much of my heart already, let it now be crucified to me, and I to it, by the croſs of Chriſt. Deſtroy in me all fleſhly luſts, that I may not walk after the fleſh, but after the Spirit. Keep me from the ſnares of the wicked, and from the ways of the ungodly. O that my ways were directed to keep thy ſtatutes. Let me never return again to folly, nor forget the covenant of my God. Help me to quench the firſt motions of ſin, and to abhor all ſinful deſires and thoughts; and let thy Spirit ſtrengthen me againſt all temptation, that I may conquer and endure to the end. Prepare me for ſuffering, for death, and for judgment; that when I muſt leave this ſinful world, I may yield up my departing ſoul with joy into the hands of my dear and faithful Redeemer. Amen.

The Penitent Sinners' Prayer.

For Grace and Strength.

O God, who art my hope and ſtrength, upon whoſe aid and aſſiſtance I depend; look down, I beſeech thee, upon a poor feeble creature, whoſe work is great, and whoſe ſtrength is but weakneſs. O Lord, it is a mighty work, to cleanſe this polluted nature; to root out evil affections; to plant it with all heavenly diſpoſitions, and to make it meet for the inheritance of the ſaints in light. It is a work that will be oppoſed by the world, the fleſh, and the devil.—But bleſſed be thy name, thou haſt promiſed to go along with me; to work in me, to ſtrengthen me by thy grace, and quicken me by thy Spirit. To thee, O Lord, I look for a new heart, and a right ſpirit. Alas! ſin has taken deep root in my heart, and keeps up a continual warfare there! How often has paſſion, pride, and envy diſturbed my ſpirit, ruffled my temper, and broke my peace with thee: how often has vanity, and a love of the world, drawn my heart away from thee, and indiſ-

poſed me for thy worſhip and ſervice. The world knows me not, they look only on the outward man: I may deceive them with the ſhadows of thoſe graces, to which, alas! my heart may be a ſtranger: but I cannot deceive thee, O thou ſearcher of hearts; and let me not, I beſeech thee, deceive myſelf! Shew me to myſelf, under the moſt ſpecious diſguiſe; and help me to mortify ſin in every member, though it may be like plucking out a right eye, or cutting off a right hand!

Thy goſpel is heavenly and divine; let me be partaker of its divine nature; let the work of holineſs be carried on in my ſoul, till I am ſanctified in body, ſoul, and ſpirit; till I am delivered into the very mould of the goſpel. Let me not be contented with ſtriving againſt ſin; but enable me to go on in grace, till I am reſcued from the bondage of ſin, and the fears of death; and when by thy grace, I am arrived at the ſtate of everlaſting triumph, I ſhall lay all my victories at thy feet; and with palms in my hand, and hallelujahs on my lips, celebrate thy praiſe to all eternity. Amen.

The Soul ſeeking its happineſs in God, and devoting itſelf to him.

O thou eternal ſource of light, and fountain of love, thou haſt made my mind to know thee; my heart to love thee; my tongue to praiſe thee; and all that I am and have to ſerve thee. No worldly creature can be a full and ſatisfying portion for my ſoul; I have truſted them too far, and followed them too long: to thee I reſign myſelf, for I am thine own: to thee I ſubmit all the powers of my ſoul and body, for thou art my rightful Sovereign:—from thee I thankfully accept all the benefits, and comforts of my life:—in thee I expect my true felicity;—to know thee, and love thee, and delight in thee, muſt be my bleſſedneſs. My ſoul is weary of itſelf, as a lifeleſs burden when it feels no panting after thee: it will never be well till it can come nearer to thee; till it knows thee better; till it loves thee more: the ſoul is deformed, that bears not thine image; and lifeleſs, if it lives

not in love to thee. The mind is unlearned, that reads not thy name on all the world; and sees not "holiness to the Lord," engraven upon the face of every creature. O let me have no other portion, no reason, no love, no life, but what is devoted to thee—employed on thee and for thee here,—and shall be perfected in thee for ever more, upon the holy altar erected by thy Son's mediation. I humbly devote and offer thee this heart. O that I could say with greater feeling, this flaming, loving heart! But the fire that must kindle the sacrifice, must come from thee! Let it consume this dross, that the nobler part may know its own: all that I can say to commend it to thy acceptance is, that I hope it is washed in precious blood, and that there is something in it that is thine own:—it still looks towards thee, and follows after thee, and will be content with inferior good no more:—it lies at thy door, and will be entertained—or perish! Though, alas! it loves thee not as it would wish, I boldly say it longs to love; it seeks no greater blessedness than perfect, endless, mutual

love!—But, O my God, it must be a teacher sent from thee that must conduct me to thee,—but no traveller that I can speak with,—no book that I have turned over—can tell me more than Jesus Christ! I can find no way so suitable to my soul,—no medicine so fitted to my misery:—I see no doctrine so divine and heavenly, nor any so fully confirmed and delivered; nor any which so powerfully pleads thy cause, and calls the soul from self and vanity, to purify and lead it to thyself. Thou hast mercifully given me the witness in myself; not an unreasonable persuasion in my mind, but that renewed nature, those heavenly desires and delights, which can come from none but thee. And O how much more have I perceived in many of thy servants, than in myself. All the love that ever I perceived kindled towards thee, and all the true obedience that ever I saw performed to thee, hath been effected by the word of Jesus Christ. How often has his Spirit helped me to pray; and how often hast thou heard those prayers. On thee, therefore, O my dear Redeemer, do I

caſt this ſinful ſoul; with thee I renew my covenant: I can have no other Saviour but thyſelf. To thee I deliver up this ſoul, which thou haſt redeemed, not to be advanced to the wealth and honours, and pleaſures of this world, but to be delivered from them, and to be healed of ſin: to be waſhed in thy blood, and quickened by thy Spirit; conducted in the ways of holineſs; and at laſt to be preſented juſtified and ſpotleſs, to the Father of ſpirits; and to obtain poſſeſſion of the glory which thou haſt promiſed! Amen.

A Form of Praise and Thanksgiving.

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who waſt, and art, and art to come!" Of thee, and to thee, and through thee, are all things. To thee be glory for ever more. All thy works praiſe thee, and thy ſaints ſhould bleſs thee,—the heavens and all the hoſts thereof,—the earth and all that dwell therein! Thy powerful life gave life to

all: in thee they live, and move, and have their being.

We praiſe and glorify thee, our Lord and Owner; for we, and all things are thine own. We praiſe and glorify thee, our King and Ruler; for we are thy ſubjects, and our perfect obedience is thy due. Juſt are all thy laws and judgments; true and ſure is thy word: To love thee is our greateſt duty, and our only felicity; for thou art love itſelf, and infinitely amiable!

O merciful Father, when we forſook thee, thou didſt not forſake us, but ſent thy beloved Son, to be life, and light, and love, to our dead and benighted ſouls.—Him haſt thou anointed to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give us repentance and remiſſion of ſins: of enemies, and heirs of death, to make us ſons, and heirs of life. We are the brands, whom thou haſt plucked out of the fire! We are the captives of Satan, whom thou haſt redeemed: we are the condemned ſinners, whom thou haſt pardoned. We praiſe, we glorify thee, our merciful God and gracious Redeemer. Satan, and the world, and

death are overcome! Our Lord is riſen.—He is riſen, and we ſhall riſe through him! "O death, where is "now thy ſting! O grave, where "is thy victory!" Our Saviour is aſcended, and we ſhall aſcend with him, to his God and our God; to his Father and our Father! To his hands we may commit our departing ſouls! Our head is glorified; and it is his will and promiſe, that we ſhall be with him where he is, to behold his glory. He hath ſealed us thereunto by his Holy Spirit. We were unholy, but he hath ſanctified us. For thy love and ſervice, we were created and redeemed! O let this be the nature of our ſouls; the employment and pleaſure of our lives! O perfect theſe weak and languid graces in us, that our love and praiſe may be more perfect! Fain we would praiſe thee with more holy, and more joyful ſouls! Prepare us, O our God, for that world, where love and praiſe ſhall never be interrupted by ſins, or ſorrows, or fears: but where we ſhall praiſe thee for ever through our dear Redeemer! Amen.

An Humble Address to God,

under heavy affliction.

O thou wiſe and merciful Governor of the world! I have often ſaid, thy will be done; and now thy will is painful to me. But ſhall I upon that account unſay what I have ſo often ſaid? God forbid! I come rather to lay myſelf down at thy feet, and to declare my full and free ſubmiſſion to all thy ſacred pleaſure! O Lord, thou art juſt and righteous in all! I acknowledge in thy preſence, that I have deſerved this, and ten thouſand times more; I acknowledge that it is of thy mercy that I am not conſumed, that the leaſt degree of comfort yet remains. But ſhall I ſpeak to thee only as my Judge! O Lord, thou haſt taught me a tenderer name; thou condeſcendeſt to call thyſelf my Father, and to ſpeak of correction as the effects of thy love. O welcome, welcome, thoſe afflictions, which are the tokens of thy parental affection, the marks of my adoption into thy family. Thou knoweſt what diſcipline I need. Thou ſeeſt,

O Lord, that bundle of folly, which there is in the heart of thy poor, froward and thoughtleſs child; and knoweſt what rods and what ſtrokes are needful to drive it away. I would therefore be in ſubjection to thee, and live. I would bear thy ſtrokes, not merely becauſe I cannot reſiſt them, but becauſe I love and truſt in thee. I would ſweetly acquieſce and reſt in thy will, as well as ſtoop to it and ſay, "good is the word "of the Lord:" Yea, Lord, I will praiſe thee that thou art thus kindly training me up for glory. The cup which my heavenly Father puts into my hand, ſhall I not drink it? By thine aſſiſtance and ſupport I will. Only be pleaſed, O Lord, to ſtand by me, and ſometimes to grant me a favourable look in the midſt of my ſufferings; and ſupport my ſoul by thy conſolations. However ſevere this night of affliction may ſeem, if thou ſayeſt, "let there be light," there ſhall be light. But I am more concerned that my afflictions may be ſanctified, than that they may be removed. Number me, O God, among the happy perſons, whom, while thou

chaſteneſt, thou teacheſt out of thy law! Shew me, I beſeech thee, wherefore thou contendeſt with me; and purify me by the fire that is ſo painful to me, while I am paſſing through it! Doſt thou not chaſten thy children for this very end, that they may be partakers of thy holineſs? Thou knoweſt, O God, it is this my ſoul is breathing after. I am a partaker every moment of thy bounty, of thy goſpel, and I hope, in ſome meaſure, a partaker of the grace of it operating on my heart. O may it operate more and more, that I may largely partake of thine holineſs too; that I may come nearer and nearer in the temper of my mind to thee, O bleſſed God! Let my ſoul be melted in the furnace, if I may but thereby be made fit for being delivered into the mould of thy goſpel, and bearing thy bright and amiable image for ever. Amen.

The Poor Man's Prayer.

O thou Father of all! who haſt graciouſly promiſed to deliver "the needy "when he crieth; the poor alſo, and "him that hath no helper:" I had fainted, unleſs I had believed in thy goodneſs! This poor man has cried, and thou haſt heard him. I have been brought low, and thou haſt helped me: at thy hand I have received my daily bread; and though ſometimes my cup of earthly good has been almoſt dry, yet thou haſt again ſupplied it, and again encouraged me to truſt in thee! Haſt thou ſaid, the very hairs of your head are all numbered; and may I not caſt my care upon him who thus careth for me! Thou, Lord, haſt never forſaken them that truſt in thee! But, O my God, I thank thee that though poor to this world's good, I may be rich in faith, and an heir of heaven. I thank thee for that bread which cometh down from heaven,—that bread which is the life of the world, and the life of my ſoul; I would feed upon it till my

ſoul is nouriſhed unto eternal life! I will not complain while I ſee him who was rich, for our ſake become poor. Bleſſed Jeſus! how highly haſt thou honoured the poor; and how greatly haſt thou favoured them with the glad tidings of thy Goſpel! Bleſſed poverty, that makes us poor in ſpirit, and heirs of thy kingdom! Having nothing, we may then poſſeſs all things!

May I be thy humble follower in humility, and poverty of ſpirit, to be conformed to thine image, and made meet for that world, where ſorrow and ſighing ſhall flee away, and where all tears ſhall be wiped away from our eyes, and where we ſhall be made Kings and Prieſts unto our God for ever! Amen.

CONVERSE WITH GOD.

Remember, O my ſoul, this is not thy home; thou art upon a journey to thy Father's houſe, where thou muſt abide for ever: even on thy journey home, he permits thee to converſe freely with him. O ſee him then that is inviſible: hearken to him when he ſpeaketh: obey his voice: obſerve his way: ſpeak to him boldly, though humbly and reverently as his child, about thy greateſt concerns: tell him all thy ſorrows, and confeſs all thy folly and unkindneſs; intreat his forgiveneſs, and plead the merits of thy Saviour. Converſe with him about the way in which thou ſhouldeſt go. Deſire his grace, and give up thyſelf to his conduct and care. Weep over in his ears the hiſtory of thy ingratitude: tell him thou art moſt offended with what has moſt diſpleaſed him: that thou art angry with thy diſobedient unthankful heart: that thou art even weary of that heart that loveth him no more; and that it ſhall never pleaſe thee till it loves him better, and is more deſirous to pleaſe him. Tell him of

thy enemies, and beg the protection of his love: tell him of thy frailties, infirmities and paſſions; and beg not only his tender forbearance, but his help. Tell him, that without him thou canſt do nothing; and beg the grace that is ſufficient for thee, that through him that ſtrengtheneth thee, thou mayeſt do all things. When thou falleſt, deſpair not, but beg his helping hand to raiſe thee. Speak to him eſpecially of thy everlaſting things, and thank him for his promiſes, and for thy hopes,—for what thou ſhalt be, and do, and enjoy among his holy ones for ever. Expreſs thy joy in the hopes that thou ſhalt ſee his glory, and love him and praiſe him better than thou canſt now deſire! Begin thoſe praiſes; and as thou walkeſt with him, take pleaſure in the mention of his perfections: be thankful to him and ſpeak good of his name. Solace thyſelf in remembering what a God, what a defence and portion, all believers have; and in conſidering where he is now conducting thee, and what he will do with thee, and what uſe he will make of thee for ever. Speak with rejoicing of

the glory of his works, and the righteouſneſs of his judgment, and the holineſs and evenneſs of his ways. Sing forth his praiſes with a joyful heart, and frown away all ſlaviſh fears, all malicious ſuggeſtions and doubts, and all nipping griefs, that would interrupt the melody, and untune your ſoul. Thy heavenly Father loves thy moans and tears: but how much more does he love thy thanks and praiſe! Or if indeed it is a winter time with thee; a ſtormy day, aud he ſeems to chide or hide his face, becauſe thou haſt offended him, let the cloud that is gathered by thy folly, come down in tears and tell him, thou haſt ſinned againſt heaven and before him, and art no more worthy to be called his ſon; but yet fly not from him, but beg his pardon, and the privilege of a ſervant: and thou wilt find forgiveneſs when thou feareſt condemnation. Only return and keep cloſer to him for the time to come. If the breach, through thy neglect, ſeems to have gone ſo far that thou ſeemeſt to have loſt thy God, and to be caſt off and forſaken, deſpair not yet; for he doth but hide his

face till thou repent. Lift up thy voice, and cry, Father, in ſpite of unbelief, my Father, my Saviour, my God! and thou ſhalt hear him at laſt anſwer thee. My child, cry out, O why haſt thou forſaken me! What ſhall I do here without thee! O leave me not in this howling wilderneſs: O let me not be a prey to my ſins; to Satan; to my foes and thine: O beg of him that thy wanderings and childiſh folly, may not be taken as acts of enmity, or at leaſt that they may be pardoned; and though he correct thee, that he will return and not forſake thee. Or if thou haſt not words to pour out before him, at leaſt ſmite upon thy breaſt; and though thou art aſhamed or afraid to look up towards heaven—look down and ſay, "O "Lord be merciful to me a ſinner;" and he will accept thee, and will number ſuch a ſentence, with the prayers which he cannot deny; he will find thee and ſhew thee where it was that thou didſt loſe him, by loſing thyſelf and turning from him: ſeek him and thou ſhalt find him; for he never faileth or forſaketh thoſe that wait upon him.

MEDITATION.

The ſuitableneſs of things below to my fleſhly nature, has too much detained my affections on earth: and ſhall not the ſuitableneſs of things above to my ſpiritual nature, much more draw up my love to heaven? There is God, whom I have ſought and ſerved. He is alſo here, but veiled and but little known. But there he ſhines to heavenly ſpirits in heavenly glory. There is the Saviour in whom I have believed; and there I ſhall live becauſe he liveth, and in his light I ſhall ſee light. He loved me here with a redeeming, regenerating and preſerving love; but there he will love me with a perfecting, glorifying, joyful love. I had here ſome rays of heavenly light; but, O how often were they eclipſed by long and wintry nights; but there I ſhall dwell in the city of the Sun, the city of God, the heavenly Jeruſalem, where there is no night, eclipſe, or

darkneſs. There are the heavenly hoſts, whoſe holy love and joyful praiſes I would fain be a partaker of. I have here had ſome of their loving aſſiſtance, but to me unſeen; but there I ſhall be with them of the ſame nature, and the ſame triumphant church and choir! My thoughts of heaven are ſweeter, becauſe ſo many of my dear and holy friends are there; and ſhould I not think of it with more delight, becauſe my Father, my Saviour, and my Comforter, is there; and not alone, but with all the ſociety of love.

The Prayer

Of one going to the Lord's-Table.

O thou God of ordinances, I thank thee for the covenant of thy grace, and the appointed ſeals of it. I deſire to give myſelf to thee, but fear I ſhould approach to holy things unworthily. Haſt not thou filled me with reverence for this command of my dying Saviour, with

this desire of communion with thee, and with this willingness to be wholly thine? Examine me O Lord, and prove me, try my reins and my heart. Am I indulging any secret sin? Do I allow myself in the neglect of any holy precept? Let me not wrong my soul, by a sinful absence from thy table. Let thy word, providence, and Spirit, concur to make my way plain before me. Scatter my doubts. Give me stronger faith and love. O that the views of a crucified Saviour may deeply impress my mind, and a sense of his dying love constrain me to give up myself to him more solemnly than I have ever yet done!

Lord, shew me thy covenant, and help me to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I believe; Lord, help thou mine unbelief, and increase my faith. Kindle my repentance, and strike this rocky heart, that it may bleed at the remembrance of my past follies, and confirm my resolutions that I may have nothing more to do with idols. I abhor myself that I love my God, my Saviour, no better. Let that spark become a flame;

let that flame be ſtrong and ſteady, and the proofs of it appear in my holy obedience. O ſhed abroad thy love in my heart, by the Holy Spirit given unto me! Breathe upon this clod, and it ſhall warm. Draw me, and I ſhall run after thee. I had rather love thee, than have all the treaſures on earth. O my God, let me not be cold and lifeleſs at that ſolemnity, where I am to commemorate the moſt glorious love, that was ever known or heard of! Be with my ſpirit, help my infirmities, accept me, and unite my heart to thee in covenant in everlaſting bonds through my Redeemer. *Amen*

A Sacramental Meditation.

O my gracious God and Father! with how ſweet a feaſt haſt thou entertained me! Angels are admiring theſe miracles of love, and ſhall not I admire them? They rejoice while they ſtand by, and behold our heavenly feaſt? and ſhall it not be ſweeter to the gueſts who feed upon it? My God, how dearly haſt thou purchaſed my love; and ſhall I ever ſlight ſuch love? Shall it not overcome my rebellious will? and melt down my cold and hardened heart? Shall I be ſaved from hell, and not be thankful? Nothing is ſo much my grief and ſhame, as that I love thee no more. O what a mercy ſhould I eſteem it, if thou wouldſt give me a heart to anſwer thoſe kind invitations! O that I could love thee as much as I would love thee! But this is too great an happineſs for earth, but thou haſt ſhewed me the place where I may attain it! My Lord is there in full poſſeſſion, who has left us theſe pledges, till he comes to take us to himſelf, and feaſt us there, in our Maſter's joy. O bleſſed place! O happy company, that

ſee his glory! Happy are we whom thou haſt called from our dark and miſerable ſtate, and made heirs of that felicity, and paſſengers to it, under the conduct of ſo ſure a guide. O then we ſhall love thee without theſe ſinful pauſes and defects. Till then, my God, I am devoted to thee. By right and covenant I am thine. My heart, my tongue, my hand, confeſs, that I am wholly thine. O let me live to none but thee, and to thy ſervice, and thy ſaints on earth! And O let me no more return to iniquity, nor venture on that ſin that crucified my Lord. O be not a ſtranger to the heart that thou haſt ſo freely choſen for a dwelling! Make it the daily reſidence of thy Spirit; quicken it by thy grace; adorn it with thy gifts; employ it in thy love; refreſh it with thy joys, and the light of thy countenance; deſtroy this carnality, ſelfiſhneſs, and unbelief; and let the world ſee that God will make a palace of the loweſt heart, when he chuſes it for the place of his own abode.

A Devotional Exercise

At the Lord's Table.

O matchleſs bounty of the eternal God! what a gift is this! and to what unworthy ſinners! And will God ſtoop ſo low to man? and come ſo near him? and thus reconcile his worthleſs enemies? Will he freely pardon all that I have done, and take me into his family and love, and feed me with the fleſh and blood of his Son? I believe; Lord, help my unbelief! I humbly and thankfully accept thy gifts! Open thou my heart, that I may yet more joyfully and thankfully accept them. Behold, Lord, a wretch that needeth all this mercy! And as it is the offer of thy grace and covenant, my ſoul gladly takes thee for my God and Father, for my Saviour and my Sanctifier. And here I give up myſelf to thee, as thy created, redeemed, and regenerated child, to be ſaved and ſanctified by thee, to be loved by thee, and to love thee for ever. O ſeal this covenant by thy Spirit, and let me be entirely and for ever thine!

The Prayer of Parents

For their Children.

O God! thou art our God, and we will ſeek thee; our father's God, and we will exalt thee; and we beſeech thee to be our children's God. Thy good providence hath built us up into a family, and we bleſs thee for all thy favours to us. But we lament the depraved nature in which our offſpring ſhare with us, and all the ſtreams of ſin and folly which flow from ſo corrupt a fountain. We have ſolemnly taken hold of thy covenant, both for ourſelves, and our dear children. Lord, they are thine, ſave them. Save them from ſin, and ſatan, and this evil world. Save them from the vanity of childhood and youth; incline their hearts to holineſs, and give them the wiſdom which is from above. Pour thy Spirit upon our ſeed, and thy bleſſing upon our offſpring, that they may be a ſeed to ſerve thee, which ſhall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

Teach and enable us to bring them

up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and to inſtruct and guide, reprove and exhort them in the meekneſs of wiſdom, and as thoſe who travail in birth again to ſee Chriſt formed in their ſouls. Let none of our's come ſhort of eternal life, or be found on Chriſt's left hand at the great day. Let it be the joy of our hearts to ſee them walking in the truth, and ſetting their faces heaven-ward.

We aſk not great things for them belonging to this world. So far as ſhall be for their ſpiritual and eternal good, favour them with health and ſafety, give them direction and bleſſing in every honeſt employment, and feed them with food convenient for them. Eſpecially make them wiſe for their ſouls and eternity.

If it ſhould pleaſe thee to remove any of them from us by death, while they are young, make us humbly ſubmiſſive and reſigned, and firmly perſuaded that all is well. If, while they are young, thou ſhouldſt remove us from them, be thou infinitely better to them, than we were capable of being,

for with thee the fatherleſs findeth mercy. And when we are gone to praiſe thee in heaven, let our dear children be praiſing thee on earth, and be living, not to themſelves, but to him that died for them, and roſe again.

Lord, thou knoweſt our care and concern, and we deſire to caſt it upon thee. Let ſerious godlineſs in our family make our dwelling a houſe of God, and a nurſery for Chriſt and glory. Let our children do more and better ſervice for thee in their day, than we have done in our's. And before the tribunal of Chriſt may we joyfully ſay, Here are we, and the children thou gaveſt us. Then may parents and children find mercy, and enter together into the joy of our Lord. Grant us this rich grace, for the ſake of thy dear and only begotten Son, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, power and glory, for ever. Amen.

A Mother's Prayer

For her Children.

Moſt glorious and eternal God, Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, Father of men and angels, Father of mercies, and God of all comforts; thou haſt promiſed to be a Father to a thouſand generations of them that love and fear thee. Be thou a God and a Father to me, and the children which thou haſt given me. Enable me, O Lord, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in the fear of God, to the praiſe of thy holy name. O give me thy grace and favour, that I may inſtruct them with diligence and meekneſs, govern them with prudence and holineſs, provide for them uſeful employments, and competent proviſions of life and comfort, leading them in the paths of religion and juſtice, by example and precepts of holineſs, never provoking them to wrath, never indulging them in their follies, never conniving at an unworthy action: and that all my children may be thine, O preſerve them

in thy favour. If thou pleaſeſt, let them live to a full age, but above all ſecure to them a full meaſure of piety and holineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

To this end, give them grace to obey their parents, that doing their duty they may receive the promiſe: preſerve them from ſin and ſhame, from youthful follies, and youthful crimes; and ſanctify them throughout in their bodies, and ſouls, and ſpirits, that their thoughts may be pure and holy; not diſpleaſing to the eye of him who is the Searcher of hearts. Let their words be true, prudent and ingenious, ſeaſoned with grace, and apt to miniſter grace unto the hearers. Let all their actions in their whole life, be ſuch as become the ſervants of Jeſus, holy and uſeful, that they may not be burthens to the public, or to their family; but pleaſing thee, and doing good to others, they may increaſe in the love of God, and in favour with men, and may have the portion of the meek and humble in this world, and of the pure and merciful in

the world to come, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR YOUNG PERSONS.

A Morning Prayer

For a Young Perſon.

Moſt high and Holy God, the Creator, Governor and Judge of all mankind, I deſire to adore thy majeſty, and worſhip thee with humble reverence. Thou art infinitely above my higheſt thoughts and praiſes. To thy mercy I owe the repoſe and ſafety of the night, and that I ſee the morning with comfort.

I am unworthy to come into thy preſence. By nature and practice I am unholy and unclean. My iniquities have rendered me viler than the beaſts that periſh. I deſerve thy eternal diſpleaſure. Lord, have mercy upon me, for the ſake of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, who ſuffered and died for periſhing ſinners. In his precious blood let all my crimſon ſins be made white as wool and ſnow. Let me grow daily in an humble acquaintance with Chriſt Jeſus, as my righteouſneſs and ſtrength. Work

in my heart ſincere repentance and faith, that I may love God, be fruitful in holineſs, be delivered from ſin and hell, and be brought ſafe to thy heavenly kingdom.

Form my ſoul, O Lord! after thy holy image. Sanctify my thoughts and inclinations, my appetites and paſſions. Give me a Chriſt-like meekneſs and humility. Help me to love all men, eſpecially all that love Chriſt. Guard me from youthful luſts, and let no iniquity get the victory over me. Preſerve me from the defilements of the age and place where I dwell. Suffer me not to be led away by evil companions, nor be aſhamed of ſerious godlineſs.

Continue this day my health and every enjoyment, ſo far as thou ſeeſt good for me. Enable me to improve every hour, and fulfill all my duties to God and man, that in the evening my reflections may be comfortable. Whenever I am afflicted, let it be in mercy, to take away my ſin, and make me partaker of thy holineſs. I deſire to be thine in life and death, and through all eternity.

Pour down thy bleſſings on all men. Give thy goſpel to heathen nations. Let truth and liberty, righteouſneſs and peace, dwell in every land, and the kings of the whole earth bring their power and glory to ſupport true religion. Let the crown ſit long and eaſy on the heads of our proteſtant king and queen, and enrich them and their royal family with the choiceſt of thy favours. Let all inferior rulers have wiſdom and grace that they may be bleſſings to this kingdom. Make the miniſters of thy word wiſe to win ſouls, faithful, and abundantly ſucceſsful. Grant every gift of providence and grace to my dear relations and friends, which thou ſeeſt to be beſt for them.

Let the prayers of a worthleſs creature come up before thee this morning with acceptance, through the interceſſion of thy beloved Son. Bleſſed be God for Jeſus Chriſt, the purchaſer of all the mercies I have, or hope for. In him I deſire to truſt, rejoice, and ever to be found; and to him, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all ho-

nour, glory, and praiſe, for evermore. Amen.

An Evening Prayer

For a Young Perſon.

Great and glorious, gracious and merciful God and Father in Chriſt! look down from heaven, the habitation of thy holineſs, and take notice of a weak and ſinful creature, worſhipping this evening at thy footſtool. Thou madeſt the heavens and the earth, and knoweſt all the works of thy hand. My ſecret thoughts are naked to thine eye. My heart has too often forgot thee. The beſt of my ſervices are too imperfect to deſerve thy love, nor can all my obedience merit the pardon of one of my paſt tranſgreſſions. Let my crimes be waſhed away in the precious blood of thy dear Son, and in him accept a worthleſs ſinner. Spare me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, and let me not go down to the grave in an unpardoned and unholy ſtate. Lengthen out my days, that I may ſecure my beſt intereſt, and my eternal hope. Take

out of my heart every evil thought, and ſubdue every ſinful inclination. Let thy bleſſed Spirit renew my ſoul, and make me holy in heart, in lip, and life. Give me ſtrength againſt the aſſaults of temptation, and under all the frailties of youth, that I may not offend my God, crucify afreſh my Saviour, and make continual work for bitter repentance.

Chuſe my inheritance for me, O Lord, and make me content with the diſpoſals of thy Providence in this preſent life. Let not my heart idolize any thing on earth, but fix my affections on things above, where Chriſt is at thy right hand. Bear me up under all the afflictions of life with faith and patience. Make me ſtedfaſt, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, truſting thy gracious promiſe, that I ſhall reap a joyful harveſt, if I faint not. Search O God, and try my heart; diſcover to me wherein I have wandered from thee: give me true repentance, and lead me in the paths of holineſs and peace. Fit me for death and judgment, and train me up daily by thy word and ordinances, by thy Spirit and grace, for the

buſineſs and bleſſedneſs of thy kingdom in glory.

This evening would I make a freſh ſurrender of myſelf to thee for time and eternity. Protect me by thy providence, and guard me by thy grace through this night, nor ſuffer any evil imagination to defile or diſquiet me. Whether I wake or ſleep, live or die, let me be for ever thine.

Pity a loſt world, that lies in ſin and wickedneſs. Send thy goſpel among the heathens and mahometans. Put an end to popiſh idolatry, ſuperſtition, and tyranny. Recover thine ancient people the Jews, that they may believe in and love the Lord Jeſus. Support and deliver thoſe that are ſuffering for Chriſt and his truth. Succeed the goſpel to the converſion and ſalvation of ſouls. Make our king and queen inſtruments of good to theſe nations, and their life and reign long and happy. Counſel the king's counſellors after thy will, and teach our ſenators the wiſdom from above. Let our magiſtrates be peace, and our exactors righteouſneſs, and the miniſters of the

goſpel burning and ſhining lights. Unite to thyſelf in the bonds of thy covenant all that are related to me in the bonds of nature, that they may ſhare in eternal bleſſings.

I praiſe thee, O my God, for eaſe and health, and all the comforts of this day, and of my whole life. Above all, I bleſs thee for Jeſus Chriſt, to purchaſe ſalvation for me by his moſt precious blood; that I was born and brought up under the ſound of thy goſpel, and have been early acquainted with thy holy word, wherein is all my hope of everlaſting life and glory. I beſeech thee to perfume my unworthy prayers and praiſes with the much incenſe of my Redeemer's interceſſion, for he is moſt worthy. And in his name and words let me further call upon thee, as,

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

Morning Prayer

For a Young Perſon.

Almighty God, with thankful praiſe and joy I meet the light of another morning. How pleaſant a thing it is for my eyes to behold the ſun, ſhining in its morning brightneſs, after I have comfortably ſlept my night's ſleep. Raiſe up my meditations to that unſpeakable joy and pleaſure, which the bleſſed above poſſeſs in beholding thy face, heavenly Father, and the face of the Lamb, ſhining ten thouſand times brighter than the ſun in the firmament.

As the ſun in the morning diſpels all the darkneſs of the night, ſo may the light of thy word with which I converſe from time to time, diſpel the darkneſs and ignorance of my mind. And as the returning ſun in the ſpring unbinds the earth, and makes it fruitful; ſo, O Lord, unbind my heart, open the ſprings of love to thyſelf, and warm it with the influences of the ſun of righteouſneſs, ſhining in the glorious goſpel.

How diſmal would it be to live on

earth without the ſun! ſo diſmal a ſtate would our ſouls be in without the light of the glorious goſpel. Shine then, O Father of lights; ſhine into my dark mind; ſhine upon my hard heart, and kindle there heavenly light, and every ſacred paſſion, that I may walk all the day in the light of thy countenance, and lie down at night in thy favour; and by daily converſing with God, may I grow in all holineſs of mind, till I am fitted to behold thy face in righteouſneſs; and to be ſatisfied when I awake in thy likeneſs. As all thy works are every day praiſing thee, I would join my poor voice, with the hoſts of heaven, and the holy inhabitants of the earth, in giving glory to thee as Creator, King, and Friend of the Univerſe. Every day brings with it the returns of mercies and benefits more than I can number: help me as well as I am able to count them over; and may I find in my breaſt a grateful ſenſe of all thine unſpeakable love and goodneſs, eſpecially as appearing in Chriſt Jeſus. May his goſpel every where ſucceed to the rooting out of all ungodlineſs and unrighte-

ouſneſs from the earth. But whatever others do, may I, by reading and thinking on that goſpel, be determined on the ſide of virtue and holineſs againſt all ſin; that in hope, and without preſumption, I may commit myſelf, my dwelling place, my ſtudies and labours, to the divine protection. May the holy thoughts, which now poſſeſs my ſoul, mingle with all the buſineſs of the day, lie down with me at night, and awake in me every morning. Help me daily to walk with God, in a courſe of holy living; and never ſuffer me to give way to ſuch looſe thoughts, or ungoverned paſſions, as if I were out of thy ſight; but fill my ſoul with ſuch apprehenſions of thy infinite greatneſs and majeſty, and ſuch a belief of thine univerſal preſence, as ſhall make me delight to pleaſe, ſerve, and imitate thee. Forgive, merciful God, all my paſt deadneſs, lukewarmneſs, and hypocriſy in every chriſtian duty, either towards thyſelf or towards men; deliver me from ſuch dangerous tempers, and from every other temper, that would hinder the acceptance of my prayers;—may they be

the prayers of the upright, which are thy delight, and accepted in thy beloved Son, and our dear Redeemer. Amen.

Evening Prayer.

Great and good God, thy loving kindneſs is new every morning, and freſh every evening; great is thy faithfulneſs. It is becauſe thou haſt been at my right hand this day, that I have not been moved. I have found thee wherever and whenever I have ſought thee. I have found thee in thy word, and in prayer; on my bed, and at my table; in my buſineſs and viſits; at home and abroad; in my cloſet, and in holy aſſemblies. I have found the comforts of thy Scriptures, the care of thy Providence, and manifold tokens of thy fatherly regard. I have taſted this day that the Lord is gracious. O that he would grant me ſuch converſe and intercourſe with himſelf, as may make me long for more immediate communion with him in heaven. My heart pants after thee, O God; O that I could come nigh thee, even to thy ſeat. Draw me, and

I will run after thee. Help me to ſhew my love to thee, by growing in acquaintance with thee; and by a conſtant doing of thy will on earth, as the angels do it in heaven.

As thy ways are all pleaſantneſs, and thy paths peace, grant that I may never admit a thought againſt the purity and ſtrictneſs of thy holy law. May I always admire, and approve of it; and may I delight in it after the inner man. Maniſeſt, I pray thee, thy powerful grace in conquering my will; and aſſiſt me to go from ſtrength to ſtrength, and ſo run my chriſtian race as to obtain the heavenly prize. Cauſe thy daily providential diſpenſation, whether afflictive or proſperous, to be ſo many ſpurs to quicken me in my preparations for everlaſting reſt; and prepare my mind by holy truſt and fortitude, for what every night or day may bring forth, perſuaded that whatever thou doeſt, will be in wiſdom and in love. May I lie down this night in peace with thee; and may I lie down at laſt and ſleep in Jeſus; to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

The Young Person's Prayer

For the Lord's Day Morning.

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Al-
"mighty! thou art glorious in holi-
"neſs, fearful in praiſes," a God doing wonders. Wonders of goodneſs and mercy haſt thou done for me, a ſinful creature, through my whole life, and particularly the laſt week. After ſo many ſeaſons of grace, which I have miſimproved, thou haſt brought me to another day of the Son of man. Help me to remember the reſurrection of my Lord, and let my heart riſe to the throne of his glory. Baniſh from my ſoul every vain thought, that I may begin and ſpend this holy day, to thy honour and my own ſalvation.

Bleſſed be thy name, O heavenly Father, who haſt pitied a ſinful world, and ſent thy dear Son to die that we might live, and riſe again that we might be juſtified. Bleſſed be Jeſus, who took our fleſh and blood, and by his ſufferings and death, became a reconciler of ſinful creatures to thine offended

Majeſty. Adored be divine mercy, which ſent a glorious goſpel to my native land, and put into my hands the ſacred volume, in which I read the covenant of grace, and learn the way to everlaſting life.

Help me this day to attend thy word and the ordinances of thy houſe, with pleaſure and profit. Let thy miniſters come to the aſſemblies of thy people in the fulneſs of the bleſſing of the goſpel of Chriſt, and particularly to my ſoul. O that my conſcience may this day be awakened, my underſtanding enlightened, my will bowed to the obedience of faith, my affections fixed on heavenly things, and my heart enriched with divine graces and comforts! Make me fervent in prayer, and joyful in praiſe. Deliver me from a wandering eye and heart. Let not vain thoughts lodge within me, or interrupt my humble converſe with thee. Let me love the habitation of thy houſe, and the place where thy honour dwells; and at the cloſe of publick worſhip may I find my heart the fitter for devout retirement.

Graciouſly accept this morning ſacri-

fice for Jeſus's ſake, through the virtue of his atoning blood and prevailing interceſſion. In the evening let my own experience joyfully teſtify, that a day ſpent in nearneſs to God, is better than a thouſand ſpent in ſinful pleaſures. And while I am favoured with ſuch means of grace, and foretaſtes of glory, may I look and long more ardently for the better work and worſhip of an infinitely better ſabbath at thy right hand. Hear in heaven, thy dwelling place, and when thou heareſt, forgive: and do for me and for all thine according to the riches of thy grace in the great Redeemer, to whom, with thyſelf, and the Holy Spirit, be endleſs praiſes. Amen.

The Young Person's Prayer

For the Lord's Day Evening.

Eternal Father! thou art the author and giver of every good and perfect gift, the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and in him the God of all comfort and conſolation. What grace and mercy haſt thou beſtowed on a ſinful worm! Who and what am I, that

the Lord of glory ſhould draw me nigh to himſelf! Why ſhould I find a place in thy houſe, and be numbered among thy worſhippers! How great is my privilege, to hear and read thy word, to join with thy ſaints in prayer and praiſe, and have the unſearchable riches of Chriſt opened to my impoveriſhed ſoul! But, Lord, was there a ſingle worſhipper more unworthy, more vain and trifling, more dull and lifeleſs, more wandering and diſtracted, than I have been? How little of thy word has been treaſured up in my heart? How little have I reliſhed the truths of Chriſt, or felt the power of his grace and love, or diſcovered the evil of ſin and beauty of holineſs?

Forgive, I beſeech thee, the iniquities of my holy things, and ſprinkle my perſon and ſervices with the all-atoning blood of Jeſus. Though thy bleſſed day be almoſt gone, let not the work of it be altogether loſt. O that I may retain the ſenſe and ſavour of thy word for many days to come! Let the good ſeed take root in my heart, and bring forth fruits of righteouſneſs in my future temper and converſation. I deſire

to have more love to thyſelf, and to Jeſus the Son of thy love and more love to my neighbour for Jeſus' ſake. I deſire to hate ſin more than ever, and be more watchful againſt every temptation of ſatan and the world, and more reſolute to mortify every corruption of my heart. Let thy grace be ſufficient for me, and thy ſtrength be made perfect in my weakneſs.

Bleſſed be God, who has not utterly forſaken his own ordinances. I praiſe thee for ſome breathings of ſoul towards thee, ſome holy exerciſes of faith and love, of ſubmiſſion and obedience, of repentance and ſelf dedication; ſome delight in thy worſhip, both in the publick aſſembly and in devout retirement. Carry on in me thy good work, till it be finiſhed in heavenly joy and praiſe in thy immediate preſence.

Pity the multitudes that never had the goſpel, and let the day-ſpring from on high viſit them. Pity thoſe alſo, who are groaning in ſecret, becauſe their perſecutors and oppreſſors ſhut up the doors of thy ſanctuary againſt them. Let truth and liberty, grace and peace,

fill the whole earth. Continue thy bleſſings on our rulers, who watch over our civil and religious privileges. Heal and unite, edify and multiply the churches of Chriſt, and take out of them every thing that is contrary to the truth as it is Jeſus. And prepare my ſoul, by all the ſeaſons of grace I am enjoying below, for the bleſſed aſſembly of ſaints and angels in the church triumphant above. Grant this, moſt merciful Father, for Chriſt's ſake, in whom I deſire to truſt, rejoice, and be ever found; and to whom, with thee, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour, glory and praiſe, for ever. Amen.

A Repenting Youth at Prayer.

O moſt juſt and holy, moſt gracious and merciful Lord God, I am a wretched undone ſinner, and had been undone for ever if thou hadſt not pulled me as a brand out of the fire. I have been ſinning at a high rate, practiſing almoſt every youthful luſt. I have broken through the reſtraints of principle and education, forced conſcience, ſtifled

conviction, and hardened my neck againſt reproof. I have ſtopped my ear againſt thy word; ſlighted and neglected prayer, and rejected all the offers of thy love. But thine eye has pitied me, and thy hand touched my heart. Thy word and thy rod have awakened me. I now begin to ſee my folly and my danger. I ſee thy flaming ſword hanging over me. All the terror of the law and goſpel belong to me. But I fly to thy mercy. I ſee thy arms of grace extended to receive me. I ſee a fountain opened to waſh me; I ſee the blood of Chriſt ſhed to take away my ſin. It has been trampled on, deſpiſed blood; but now I prize it above all the world. I plead it as my atonement: I have no other plea but his merits and thy mercy. Thou haſt ſent him to be my Saviour; ſave me O my God, through him, by the virtue of his blood; by the efficacy of his Spirit; by the power of his word. Save me, O God, or I am loſt for ever; I review my life with horror. I repent in duſt and aſhes. I have done fooliſhly a thouſand times, and forgotten thee days without number; but I hope thou haſt

changed me, and formed me anew; and that I am not the creature I once was. I am aſhamed, yea, even confounded, when I look back. But with thee is plenteous pardon!—Pardon my tranſgreſſions, for they are great.—Let a repenting ſinner live. I purpoſe by thy grace to offend no more. O God, create my heart anew, repair thine image in me; put thy Holy Spirit within me; and make me thine only child.

I have been a lover of the world, and of ſinful pleaſures more than of God; have indulged my body, but neglected and ſtarved my ſoul: this is my folly and my ſhame. But I return to thee through Chriſt. I caſt myſelf upon thy grace. Here I am at thy feet; caſt me not away for ever. I cannot endure the thought of everlaſting baniſhment from thy preſence. And as I am reſolved to be thine, and to ſerve thee through the remainder of my life, I pray thee to confirm theſe reſolutions, that I may indeed be thine—thy child, and thy ſervant for ever; and at laſt find a place in heaven, through Jeſus Chriſt the Lamb which was ſlain, who

is worthy to receive power, and riches, and wiſdom, and ſtrength, and honour, and glory, and bleſſing for ever and ever. Amen.

A Pious Youth ſeeking after God, and rejoicing in him.

O moſt high and holy God! I have ſought thee and have found thee. Awhile ago I knew thee not, though thy waſt ever near me; but thy grace has abounded towards me:—thou haſt opened mine eyes, and I ſee thee; I ſee thine infinite perfections drawn upon all thy works of wonder. When I lift up my eyes, and conſider the heavens, I own them to be the works of thy hand; and I admire that the builder and inhabiter of thoſe glorious worlds ſhould look down upon man, and viſit ſuch worms as we are. The ſun, moon, and ſtars, are all created by thee. I ſee thy glory in them all, and the glory of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, by whom thou madeſt the world. Every day and every night they ſpeak thy praiſe, and tell the world there is a God: and while the heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament thy

handy works, how can I forbear to worſhip and adore thee their great Creator!

Thou, O Almighty God! hangeſt the earth upon nothing; ballanceſt the clouds; bringeſt the wind out of thy treaſuries; thundereſt marvellouſly with thy voice; and cauſeth the ſea to know its bounds. I admire, I adore the God of nature and providence, whoſe hand doth all theſe things, and who fainteth not, neither is weary. O Lord, how manifold are thy works, all made in wiſdom, and where can I go where thou art not.

I adore and tremble at thy holineſs and purity, who "chargeſt thine angels with folly; and in whoſe ſight "the heavens are not clean." I admire and adore thine infinite goodneſs, the earth is full of it; but what mind can conceive, what tongue can tell, the wonders of thy love, in giving thy beloved Son to ſave a periſhing world? O the heighth and depth of this love! How many thouſand ſinners have been pardoned through Chriſt, and yet pardoning grace is ſtill offered! How long

does divine pity wait over ſinners? How long haſt thou had patience with me!

At length I come,—I come, worſhipping at thy footſtool; admiring the riches of thy grace in Chriſt; admiring that goodneſs which offers me a thouſand bleſſings by the goſpel, and which has laid up more for me than can enter into my heart to conceive. Accept, O God, accept thine own creature, lying proſtrate before thee; make me one more inſtance of pardoning and ſaving grace, that I may ſhew forth thy praiſes in thy earthly temples; and may go e'er long to ſing thy praiſes in thy temple above, through a dying, and now riſen and interceding Saviour. Amen.

The Child's Prayer.

O Lord God! I am a poor helpleſs ſinful child, but thou art my heavenly Father, and I hope, through Chriſt Jeſus, my reconciled God and Father. I now come to thee, and I am grieved and ſorry to think that I have ever left thee. I have gone aſtray from thee like a loſt ſheep, but I now come to thee. Accept me as thy

child; take me, O Father, into the arms of thy mercy, and may thy beloved Son, who took children in his arms, take me in the arms of his love, and bleſs me. Let his Spirit renew my ſinful nature, create in me a clean heart, and renew a right ſpirit within me; take away the ſtone, and give me a ſoft, a tender heart; a heart to mourn for ſin, and to be afraid of offending thee; a heart to love thee, and to love all thy children. Deliver me from all the ſnares of the devil, from ſinful company, from a lying tongue, and from my own wilful and obſtinate temper. Be thou a Father to me in the deareſt ſenſe—to teach me, to guide me, to provide for me. Teach me to love thee, to pray to thee, and to ſerve thee here, and prepare me to dwell with thee for ever in thy heavenly kingdom, for Jeſus's ſake Amen.

PREPARATION FOR DEATH.

My Friends,

You cannot live a comfortable life, till you are prepared for a comfortable death: but if you are ready to die well, you are ready to live well, and ready to ſuffer, and ready for any thing! The man who hopes to be for ever with the Lord, has little to fear. How quietly may he ſleep—how eaſily may he ſuffer—how joyfully may he live! Give me leave then to aſſiſt and direct you in this great work.

1. Be ſure that you repent of every known ſin: there is nothing makes death ſo terrible to us as guilt. The ſting of death is ſin. It is ſin that makes us hide ourſelves from our God; and it is ſin that hides his face from us. So great is his mercy, that nothing but our ſin could ſeparate us from his love. Spare not ſin, therefore. Search it to the very bottom of your hearts, you

will find it has taken deep root there; and requires deep repentance: and when you have found out all its secret places in your heart, confess it plainly: but you must go still further, and forsake it resolutely; a half repentance will not afford you comfort in life, or hope in death.

That repentance which is unto life, is a turning unto God; a new heart, and a right spirit; a putting off the old man, and putting on the new; it is ceasing to do evil, and learning to do well; it is a death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness.

2. Put your souls into the hands of Jesus, to be pardoned, to be sanctified, and saved. Are you afraid of guilt, and the law, and the wrath of God, and hell? remember he is "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." "He was made sin for us who knew "no sin, that we might be made the "righteousness of God in him." "If "any man sin, we have an advocate "with the Father, Jesus Christ the "righteous." Fly to this refuge. Lay hold on this hope set before you, and

you will find ſtrong conſolation. Jeſus your High Prieſt, has made atonement for you here on earth, and is paſſed into heaven, where he ever liveth to make interceſſion for you. "Come therefore "boldly to the throne of grace, that "you may obtain mercy, and find "grace to help in every time of "need."

3. Devote yourſelf entirely to God; and make it the buſineſs of your life to pleaſe him, and to do good to all around you. O that I could perſuade you, my friends, how much a life of total reſignation to God, and devotedneſs to his ſervice, would contribute to your comfort in life, and your peace at death! Though your only hope for ſalvation is the merits of your Redeemer; yet your comfort muſt much depend upon the evidence you have that you are a ſincere believer in him: that you are ſanctified by his Spirit, and created anew in him, and made meet for the inheritance of the ſaints in light. Would you not wiſh, in your dying moments, to have the teſtimony of your conſcience; "that in "ſimplicity and godly ſincerity, not

" with fleſhly wiſdom, but by the grace " of God, you have had your conver- " ſation in the world?"

Will it not be then matter of comfort to you, to look back on ſuch marks of your ſincerity as theſe?

That you have loved God above all things, and loved your brethren around you, becauſe they were the children of the ſame heavenly Father.

That you have taken Chriſt for your only Saviour, and his Spirit for your ſanctifier?

That it has been the deſire of your heart, and the endeavour of your life, to pleaſe God?

That you have endeavoured to mortify ſin, though it has been like cutting off a right hand, or plucking out a right eye?

That you have loved holineſs, more than all the wealth and pleaſure of the world? and that you have loved the word of God, and his ordinances, as the means of holineſs? and that it has been your earneſt deſire to be made more holy, and more meet for the world of holineſs and love?

O my friends! live now, as you will wiſh you had lived, when you ſhall be upon a dying bed.

4. Live daily as in heaven while you are on earth, by faith, hope, and love. If you live as a ſtranger to heaven in health, you will be a ſtranger to it in ſickneſs; and the ſoul will rather have terror than pleaſure, under the thought of going to a ſtrange place, a ſtrange God, ſtrange company, and ſtrange employments. Remember daily that there is your Father, your Saviour, your Comforter, your home, your happineſs, your friends, your treaſure, your crown, your glory! Do all that you do in this world, with heaven ſtill in your eye. Hear, and read, and pray, as if heaven were open before you. Reſiſt temptations, and follow your buſineſs, and your trade, as if heaven was ſtill in ſight; as a traveller holds on his journey in remembrance of the end. Meditate often on the heavenly glory; on the certainty, the nearneſs, the greatneſs of that glory. Think how many millions of holy ſouls are there in joy, while we are here in fears and cares: they have paſſed through a

world of trials, and were compaſſed with ſuch infirmities as ours, and paſſed through death as we muſt do. We go not an untrodden path, but are "fol-" lowers of them who through faith " and patience inherit the promiſes."

Think how much better it is with them, than with us; how they are freed from all our ſins and ſufferings, doubts and fears. O think what it is for a perfected, holy ſoul, to ſee the glorified Redeemer, and all the holy company of ſaints and angels: to ſee the glory of God, and to have the knowledge of his glorious works—to feel his love poured out on us, and to be ſwallowed up in love and praiſe. Think of your holy acquaintance that are gone before you, and frequently take, as it were, a walk in the ſtreets of the city of God. Suppoſe you ſaw their glory, and heard their concordant praiſes of their Creator, their Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Let ſuch thoughts as theſe be your daily work and pleaſure, and the converſation of your minds with God above: and becauſe your heart will be backward, you muſt drive it on, and preach as it

were to yourſelf. Let heaven be your ſubject, convince your heart with evidence, urge it with heavenly motives, ſolace it with heavenly comforts, and when it is dull, turn your thoughts by petition to God, and beg his help. Sometimes ſpeak to yourſelves, and ſometimes reverently to God, and thus keep a holy communion and familiarity above, and this will make heaven deſirable to you in a dying hour. If you can but keep the ſenſible apprehenſions of God's love continually upon your heart, it will make heaven deſirable to you, and the drawings of God's love will overcome the fears of death.

Think much of the infinite perfection of God; remember his goodneſs is equal to his greatneſs, and what that is, look up to the heavens and ſee. He is called love itſelf—and ſhall it be hard for a ſoul that deſires to pleaſe God, to believe that love itſelf loves him; and that infinite goodneſs will be pleaſed with him in Chriſt Jeſus.

The Son of God, incarnate in his whole work of redemption, is a wonderful glaſs to reveal the love of God to

man. The greateſt proof of friendſhip cannot more convince us of the love of our friend.

The remembering all the great mercies of your lives, to your ſouls and bodies, in every place, and ſtate, and company, will help to convince you, that he that hath done all this for you, loveth you; and you may truſt that God of love at death, who hath filled up your lives with the benefits of his love.

Make praiſe and thankſgiving a part of your devotion every day; and if you thus employ your heart and tongue in this exerciſe of love to God, it will keep on your ſoul a ſweet ſenſe of his love to you, and make both health and ſickneſs eaſy.

To live in the ſenſe of God's love, and in the exerciſe of it by praiſe, and holy deſires, and good works, is the very firſt fruits and foretaſte of heaven upon earth; and is a fruit of believing more excellent than faith itſelf. It comforts and draws the ſoul by the moſt powerful ways, even by experimental taſte of his love and goodneſs; and he will moſt eaſily believe that

there is a heaven for him, who has the beginning and foretaſtes of it already.

Instructions to Dying Christians.

Now my friends, let every anxious thought be diſmiſſed, and deliver up your ſoul with humble, but cheerful confidence, into the hands of your Father and your Redeemer. Will you not truſt the God and Father of your ſpirits, who is love itſelf? Will you not truſt your Saviour, who has ſaved you ſo far already, and who hath ſaved ſo many millions before you? Truſt him with his own; truſt him as the Mediator of the new covenant ſealed by his blood, by which free forgiveneſs and life is given to all believers!—truſt him as the King, and Judge of all, and as the Advocate of the faithful—as our great High Prieſt, who intercedes for us, and hath taken poſſeſſion of the glory, to which he hath promiſed to bring us.—Truſt him implicitly, with ſoul and body, and leave both in his faithful hands, and let his power, wiſdom, and

love, diſpoſe of you as he pleaſes. Indulge no anxious thoughts of the corruption of your fleſh, or of the unſearchable difficulties of the nature of ſpirits, and the things unſeen, which overwhelm and bewilder many; but reſt your ſouls in the will of God through a Redeemer, in that will which is infinitely good, and the only felicity and reſt of ſouls.

2. Renew your believing thoughts of God's love, and of all the mercies of your life. Inſtead of ſorrowing that they are at an end, rejoice with thankfulneſs; rejoice in that mercy which opened your eyes, and turned you from darkneſs to light, and from the power of Satan unto God—that has pardoned and adopted you, and led you ſo far on your way towards the heavenly inheritance. O triumph in that love which has delivered you from ſo many temptations of Satan, the fleſh, and this deceitful world! And ſhall a poor ſervant of his, who has endeavoured in ſincerity, though in ſinful weakneſs, to do his will, and has a High Prieſt interceding for him in heaven, be afraid to go to ſuch a God.

3. Now ſleep your ſouls in the believing thoughts of the heavenly glory to which you are going. O now remember, that the time is but ſhort till you ſhall ſin no more, and fear no more, and ſuffer no more; till you ſhall know God and his works, not only as much as you can deſire, but as much as your heart can wiſh, or your enlarged capacities can receive. O what an hour will that be, when you ſhall be newly entered into the city of God, the heavenly ſociety, and ſing your firſt ſong of joyful praiſe to God, and the Lamb! O what an enemy is unbelief! that can make us ſtand trembling without the doors, and afraid to enter, while millions of our brethren are rejoicing within, and where our Lord ſtands ready to receive us, and where angels and all the heavenly hoſts will welcome us with joy.

Reflections for an aged Christian.

What abundant experience have I had of God's fidelity and love! And after all this, ſhall I not love him? His

undeſerved goodneſs gave me being; it choſe my parents, gave them a tender love for me, and deſire of my good; it taught them to inſtruct me early in his word; to educate me in his fear; it placed me in the beſt of lands, and one of the beſt of ages; it deſtroyed all great expectations from the world, teaching me to bear the yoke from my youth; it chaſtened me betimes, but did not deſtroy me. I have been trained up in the ſchool of affliction, to keep my ſluggiſh ſoul awake in the conſtant expectation of my great change—to kill my pride and over-valuing of this world—and as a ſpur to quicken my ſoul to diligence. O what a mercy hath a life of gentle chaſtiſement proved to me. It urged me againſt all dull delays, to make my calling and election ſure; and to make ready my accounts, as one that muſt quickly give them up to God. It was love and mercy that made ſacred truth ſo pleaſant to me, in all its glorious diſcoveries, and practical uſe. How many comfortable hours have I had in the ſociety of living ſaints; how many joyful days in the ſolemn aſſemblies,

where God has been worſhipped with ſeriouſneſs, by concordant, though imperfect ſaints. From how many a danger, fear, and pain, have I been delivered: How many weary days have been ſweetened with his pleaſant work, and how many painful nights have had a comfortable morning? Many a time have I cried to the Lord in my trouble, and he hath delivered me out of my diſtreſs.

Theſe, and many more than theſe, are my experiences of that wondrous mercy which has meaſured my pilgrimage, and filled up my days. Never did God break his promiſes with me; never did he fail me, nor forſake me, till provoked by my wilful ſinning. How little interruption might I have had of my peace and comfort, and ſhall I now diſtruſt him at the laſt?—ſhall I not quietly truſt that infinite wiſdom, love, and power, whom I have ſo long truſted, and found ſo good? To thee, O Lord, as to a faithful Creator, I commit my ſoul. I know that thou art the faithful God, that keepeſt covenant and mercy with them that love thee, and keep thy com-

mandments. To thee, O my Saviour, I commit my ſpirit. It is thine own by redemption, it is thine own by covenant, it is marked and ſealed for thine own by thy Spirit; and thou haſt promiſed not to looſe it. Thou waſt made like thy brethren, that thou mighteſt be "a merciful and faithful High Prieſt in "things pertaining to God," to make reconciliation for our ſins. By thy blood we have boldneſs to enter into the holieſt, even by the new and living conſecrated way. Cauſe me to draw near with a ſincere heart, in full aſſurance of faith; for he is faithful who has promiſed life through thee. Faithful and true are all thy promiſes. Thou haſt promiſed reſt to weary ſouls that come to thee. I am weary of ſuffering and of ſin; weary of my fleſh, and weary of my darkneſs, and dulneſs, and diſtance, and of this wicked and unrighteous world, and whither ſhould I look for reſt, but home to my heavenly Father, and to thee? I am but a bruiſed reed, but thou wilt not break me; I am but a ſmoking flax, but thou wilt not quench what thy grace hath kindled: the Lord

redeemeth the ſouls of his ſervants, and none of them that truſt in thee ſhall be deſolate, therefore will I wait on thy name, for it is good, and will truſt in the mercy of God for ever. Thou art my hope, O Lord God, thou art my truſt from my youth, my praiſe ſhall be continually of thee. O God! forſake me not! "I had fainted unleſs I had "believed, to ſee the goodneſs of the "Lord in the land of the living." The ſun may ceaſe to ſhine on man, and the earth to bear us; but God will never ceaſe to live, nor to be faithful to his promiſes; bleſſed be the Lord, who hath commanded me ſo ſafe and quieting a duty, to truſt him, and caſt all my care on one who has promiſed to care for me.

HYMN.

My God! my everlaſting hope,
I live upon thy truth;
Thy hands have held my childhood up,
And ſtrengthened all my youth.

Still has my life new wonders ſeen,
Repeated every year,
Behold my days that yet remain,
I truſt them to thy care.

Caſt me not off when ſtrength declines,
When hoary hairs ariſe,
And round me let thy glory ſhine,
Whene'er thy ſervant dies.

Then in the hiſtory of the age,
When men review my days;
They'll read thy love in every page;
In every line thy praiſe.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

For an Aged or Dying Chriſtian.

Alas dear Lord, I am aſhamed that to love and praiſe thee, ſhould be a work of difficulty! what ſhould I love, if not goodneſs and love itſelf—that merciful Father who made me, that I might love him? who redeemed me, that by love he might win my love, and ſanctified me to diſpoſe my ſoul to love him? What ſhall I praiſe, if not infinite per-

fection? the glory of whoſe power wiſdom and goodneſs ſhines forth in the whole creation! Heaven and earth praiſe thee! and am I no part of heaven or earth? The whole creation proclaims thy glory! and am I not a part of thy creation? Thy very enemies when redeemed, reconciled, and forgiven, praiſe the love and grace of their Redeemer! and am I not one of theſe? Thy ſaints all love thee; for it is the eſſence of a ſaint: they praiſe thee, for it is the work of ſaints: and am I not one of theſe? I am leſs than the leaſt of all thy mercies, but it is not the leaſt of thy mercies which I have received; and if a life full of mercies has not brought forth a life full of love, and praiſe, let it end in a loving and praiſing death!

A Prayer against Unbelief.

O thou that knoweſt how deadly an enemy unbelief is to thy honour and my ſoul, ſend I beſeech thee that heavenly light to my mind, which may baniſh and confound it. Let it not

blaſpheme thy truth, and impriſon, and blind, and torment my ſoul. O thou that giveſt the word, the Saviour, the heaven which I muſt believe, deny me not that faith by which I muſt believe them; it muſt be thy glory whoſe reflections muſt reveal thy glory to us; and a light from heaven that muſt ſhew us heaven! O ſend one beam, one beam, Lord, of that heavenly light, into this dark, ſinful ſoul! that with Stephen I may ſee in my paſſage the glory of my bleſſed Lord to whom I go! and with Simeon may gladly ſay, Lord now let thy ſervant depart in peace, for mine eyes have ſeen thy ſalvation! one beam of thine will drive away the powers of darkneſs, and baniſh all theſe doubts and fears, and let in ſome of heaven into my ſoul, before it is let into heaven; O thou bleſſed Spirit, the illuminator of dark impriſoned ſouls, remember not all my reſiſtances of thy grace, and forſake me not in this laſt neceſſity of my life, and leave me not to the power of darkneſs and unbelief! Though glory is not openly ſeen till it is enjoyed,—let me now, when I am ſo near

it, have such a sight of it by faith, as is suitable to this low and darker state. O thou that art the Spirit of life, so quicken and actuate this sluggish soul,—that the last part of my race may be run with vigour, and the last act of my life may be done in evidence of the heavenly influence, and may be more like the heavenly employment, than all the rest has been! O thou that art the sanctifier, and comforter of souls, now kindle that fire of heavenly love in me, and give me some taste of the celestial joys, which may feelingly tell me that there is a heaven indeed; and may be the witness within, and the pledge and earnest that I shall live with Christ. My flesh and my own heart now fail me, the world and all therein is nothing to me, I am taking my everlasting farewel of them all: but one beam of his face, and one taste of his love, who is my portion for ever, will be strength and joy to my departing soul, and better than this life and all its pleasures. Come Lord, with all these seasonable comforts into my soul, that my soul may comfortably come to thee! My life had been but death, and

darkneſs and diſaffection to God, if thou hadſt not been in me a Spirit of life and light, and love: the tempter would have been too ſtrong for me: and how then ſhall I deal with him myſelf, when the languiſhings of my body ſhall diſable my ſoul! Thou deſpiſeſt not art and reaſon, I thank thee for the uſe I have had of them in their ſeaſon; but one beam of thy light, one ſpark of thy love, one motion of thy heavenly life, will better confute the enemy of faith, than my diſputes can do. Teach me effectually to love and praiſe thee, and it ſhall powerfully prove to me that there is a heaven where I ſhall joyfully love and praiſe thee for ever.

The Prayer

Of a Chriſtian near Death.

O thou ſovereign of life and death, of earth and heaven! Thy mercy brought me into the world, kept me from a thouſand dangers, and gave me innumerable bleſſings of life and godlineſs. Thy mercy convinced and converted me, renewed and ſanctified my heart, and

formed Chriſt in me. O amazing mercy, that I am not dying in an impenitent and Chriſtleſs ſtate! I thank thee for the means of grace, and the hopes of glory. I thank thee for the fruits of Canaan through the wilderneſs, and now on the brink of Jordan. I thank thee for the cordials of thy great and precious promiſes, and that they are now as precious as ever. I covenanted with thee for eternal life, as the gift of thy free grace, through Jeſus Chriſt my Lord. In his name I humbly claim it. To thine hand I commit this departing ſpirit. I am thine, ſave me. I have fled to thy Son's croſs. I have renounced all dependance on any worthineſs of my own. I come to thee as a ſinner, believing in Chriſt for pardon and ſalvation. Let me have my lot among the followers of Jeſus. I know in whom I have believed. I rejoice, that I am in the hands of the good Shepherd. I thank thee, that, after this long abſence, thou art calling me home—to my glorious eternal home. But forſake not the world I am leaving, nor thy church from which I am removing.

Having bought it with an ineſtimable price, ſtill guard it, purify it, and unite it more and more, till all fleſh ſhall ſee thy ſalvation. Let my few remaining moments on earth be ſpent for thy glory. Whatever this fleſh may ſuffer, let my ſoul be riſing to the general aſſembly and church of the firſt-born, to the innumerable company of angels, and to the ſpirits of juſt men made perfect. Let faith be ſtrong in the laſt hour. Let me aſcend in the chariot of love and praiſe, and for ever ſing the ſong of *Moſes* and the *Lamb*. Even ſo, come Lord Jeſus, come ſurely, come quickly. Amen.

PRAYER,

For a dying Chriſtian.

Thy mercy brought me into the world! Thy mercy choſe my parentage, education, and habitation; it trained me up, it kept me from a thouſand dangers; it attempered my body, and furniſhed my mind; it gave me teachers, books, and helps; yea, it gave me a Redeemer; and a promiſe of life, and

the word of ſalvation! It gave me the influences of thy Spirit, which touched and turned my ſinful heart! all my repenting and reſolving thoughts! all the forgiveneſs of my manifold ſins! all the ſweet meditations of thy love! and the experience of thy good and pleaſant ſervice! The comfortable hours which I have had in ſecret thoughts, in publick worſhip, on thy holy days, at thy holy table, among thy people; all theſe have been the dealings of thy love. All my deliverances from temptation and ſin; from death and danger, all my recoveries from my too frequent falls, and pardon of my daily ſins; all the uſe it hath pleaſed thee to make of me an unworthy wretch for the good of any, for ſoul or body; all theſe are the pledges of thy wondrous love! And ſhall I be afraid to come to ſuch a God? Hath mercy filled up all my life, and brought me now ſo near my end, and ſhall I not truſt it after ſo much trial? Is it heaven that thou madeſt me for, and heaven that Chriſt did purchaſe for me; it is heaven thou promiſedſt if I would be

thine, and it is heaven that I conſented to take for my portion, and for which I did engage to forſake the world: and O that I had more entirely done it, for I now find how little reaſon I have to repent of my covenant; it is heaven which thy Spirit of grace and merciful Providences have all this while been preparing me for; and ſhall I now be fearful and unwilling to poſſeſs it? O my God, do not theſe foretaſtes of love aſſure me that I ſhall be happy in thy love for ever! My hope in thy goodneſs, thy Son, and thy covenant, will never be diſappointed; thou haſt guided me by thy council, and thou wilt bring me to thy glory. Amen.

An Address

To a dying Chriſtian.

Dear Friend,

Though nature teaches us to mourn with you under your preſent ſufferings, yet faith permits us to rejoice with you in hope of your endleſs joys, which ſeem to be near at hand. We muſt rejoice with you as the friends that love you, and, therefore, are partakers of your welfare; and we muſt rejoice with you as fellow-travellers and fellow-ſoldiers, that are going along with you to the ſame felicity; and if we are left behind for a little while, yet we hope ere long to overtake you, and never to be ſeparated from you more. This is the day for which Chriſt has been ſo long preparing you; this is the day which you thought on in all your prayers, and labours, and ſufferings, your ſelf denial and mortification. Now you are going to ſee the things which you have believed, and to poſſeſs the things which you have ſought and

hoped for. O now what a mercy is it to have a Chriſt? That you are not to encounter an unconquered death, nor to go to God without a Mediator: but that death is by Chriſt diſarmed of his ſting; and that you may boldly reſign your ſoul into the hands of your Redeemer, and commend it to him as a member of himſelf! Now you may better perceive than ever you have done, what God did for you when he opened your eyes, and humbled, and changed, and renewed your ſinful heart; and how great a mercy it is to be a penitent believer; when he forgave all your ſins, and juſtified you by his grace, adopted you for his child, and an heir of life, and ſealed you with his Spirit, and ſeparated you to himſelf. How ſad would your caſe now be, if you were yet in your ſins; if your heart was now to ſoften, to humble, and to convert; and all your preparation for heaven to make? and all this with a pained body and a diſtracted mind, and in ſo ſhort a time; with God, and eternity, and death before you? if you had all your paſt life to

look back upon as conſumed in ſin? But what an unſpeakable mercy is it, that you have been reconciled to that God that you are going to, and that the ſins which would now have been your horror, are all forgiven through the blood of Chriſt! That you can look back upon your time, ſince the day of your converſion, as ſpent in faithful devotedneſs to God, and in a believing preparation for an endleſs life; and in godly ſincerity, notwithſtanding many ſinful imperfections; and though you have nothing of your own to juſtify you at the bar of God, and need a Saviour and a pardon even for your beſt duties, yet you muſt with thankfulneſs remember that grace which has begun eternal life within you, and prepared you for it.

You have had ſomething to humble you, and to ſhew you that you were a child of Adam; and you have had ſomething for grace to contend with, and to conquer, and for Chriſt to pardon! Bleſs him through whom you have had the victory; and ere long you ſhall ſing the ſong of the Lamb with

ſtronger love, and richer experience of his grace. You have been weak, but his grace has been ſufficient for you: He has as tender a love for you now in his exaltation, as he had upon the croſs; and will he ſuffer a ſoul to periſh, for whom he has paid ſo dear a price? This is your time of need, and here is a ſupply for all your wants. As we may come boldly to the throne of grace, ſo we may boldly paſs, by his conduct, into the preſence of God in glory; for where he is, he has promiſed we ſhall be alſo. O what a joy is it to our departing ſouls, that we have our head and Saviour already in poſſeſſion of the kingdom which we are paſſing to! What a ſupport and joy is it to receive this meſſage from our aſcending Lord, Say to my brethren, "I aſcend to my "Father, and your Father, to my God, "and your God?" What a joy is it to read his promiſe: If any man ſerve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there ſhall alſo my ſervant be. You have ſerved him, and are following him, and are going to be with him where he is.

CONSOLATIONS,

Addreſſed to a Dying Chriſtian.

My friend, you ſeem now to be almoſt at your journey's end! But how many ſad ſteps have thoſe to go, whom you leave behind in this ſinful world: you have fought a good fight, and kept the faith; and ſhall never be troubled with an enemy, or temptation, when this conteſt is over! You ſhall never be ſo much as tempted to unbelief, or pride, or worldly mindedneſs, or fleſhly luſts, or to any defects in the ſervice of your Lord! But how many temptations do you leave us incompaſſed with? and how many dangers and enemies to overcome? and, alaſs, how many falls and wounds may we receive! You are entering into harbour, and leave us toſſed by tempeſts on the waves. Fleſh will no more intice or cloy your ſoul! You will no more have unruly ſenſes to command, nor an unreaſonable appetite to govern; nor wandering thoughts, nor boiſterous paſſions to reſtrain.—Your ſervice of God will no more be

mixed, and blemiſhed with imperfections! You ſhall never more have a cold, or hard, or backward heart, or a careleſs 'cuſtomary duty to lament! Will it not be a joyful day to you, when you ſhall know God, as much as you deſire to know him? and love him as much as you deſire to love him? There you ſhall be delivered from the darkneſs of this world. How dimly did we ſee through the lanthorn of the fleſh? How little did we know, and how much were we ignorant of; and what pains did our little knowledge coſt us? But there, one ſight of the face of God, will put an end to this long night, and there you ſhall underſtand the works of God, and the frame of the creation; the place, the office, and reaſon of all the things which here you know not. The myſteries of the goſpel, which angels pry into, will be there unfolded to you. What welcome will thoſe bleſſed angels give you, that here diſdained not to miniſter for you, and bear you up in all your ways, and intereſted themſelves in your concerns, rejoicing before God at your converſion? How

glad then will they be of your ſafe arrival at the promiſed harbour of felicity with themſelves? What joy will you be entertained and welcomed into;—to the acquaintance of thoſe bleſſed ſpirits, and of all the holy ſpirits, that are delivered from this fleſh, and world; and to ſee their order, be numbered with their ſociety, and to be employed in their joyful work. O how much better company is there, than the beſt below? There is no ignorance, and, therefore, no error; no want of love, and no contention, no narrow private intereſt to contend for, but all made happy in perfect love: no cruel mockings or impriſonments; none deſtitute, afflicted, or tormented; no more ſufferings for the ſake of righteouſneſs; but having ſuffered with Chriſt, they are now reigning with him; no wars, or rumours of wars, becauſe no luſt to war in their members: there we ſhall have no ſuffering friend to mourn for; your righteous ſoul will no longer be grieved with the wicked; the whole ſociety will ſhine in light, and flame in love, and none through weakneſs or

corruption will be a cloy or hindrance to another. Above all this, you ſhall behold the perſon of your glorified Redeemer! You ſhall ſee that body in its glorious change, which was once humbled to a virgin's womb, to a life of poverty, and to the ſcorn of ſinners: the wonderful condeſcenſion of his incarnation, and the myſtery of his divine nature will there be better underſtood.

You ſhall ſee the bleſſed God himſelf; in that place which he hath prepared to reveal his glory in. You ſhall ſee him whoſe ſight will perfect your underſtandings, and love him, and feel the fulneſs of his love. O my dear friend, had you and I but a glimpſe with bleſſed Stephen, or Paul, of theſe unutterable pleaſures, how deeply would it affect us! and how weary ſhould we be of this priſon, and how glad to be delivered into the glorious liberty of the ſons of God. This is the life that you are going to live; though death muſt open the paſſage into it, its pains will ſoon be over, and in that world of joy you will forget all the ſorrows you have left behind. O

what a change will it be to a humbled fearful ſoul, to find itſelf in a moment diſlodged from a ſinful, painful fleſh, and entered into a world of light, and life, and holy love! Alas! that our preſent ignorance and fear ſhould make us draw back from ſuch a change! that while all the brethren that died in faith, are triumphing in thoſe joys with Chriſt, our trembling ſouls ſhould be ſo loth to leave this fleſh, and to be called to the ſame felicity! O what an enemy is the remnant of unbelief to our ſouls, that it can hide ſuch undeſcribable glory from our eyes, that we ſhould no more deſire it, but are willing to ſtay ſo long from God? How wonderful is that love and mercy, that brings ſuch backward ſouls to happineſs! and draws us to bleſſedneſs, whether we will or not? Come on then, dear friend, and faint not at the laſt. Fear not to encounter the king of terrors! it is the laſt enemy, and it is a conquered enemy! Lift up your head, and look to your victorious reigning Lord; gird up the loins of your mind, and let faith and patience hold out yet a little while, and all will be yours.

An Address to the Sick,

When unprepared for Death.

My dear Friend,

It has pleaſed God, in whoſe hands our breath is, and whoſe are all his ways, to lay his afflicting hand upon you. He has done much to convince you of his love; he has nouriſhed and brought you up as his child; crowned you with loving kindneſs, and tender mercies, and invited you to partake of all the bleſſings of the goſpel ſalvation. But hitherto all has been in vain; his terrors have not alarmed you, his mercies have not melted you, but his love ſtill follows you; and rather than you ſhould periſh, he is laying his correcting hand upon you. You have often ſeen the love of a father in the chaſtiſement of his child; and will you not believe your heavenly Father, when he declares, whom he loveth he chaſteneth; not for his pleaſure, but to purify them from ſin, and make them partakers of his holineſs. This is, per-

haps, the laſt means that he will try—Now he is ſhewing you the vanity of the world, and how poor a portion it is for an immortal ſoul! He is now ſhewing you the value of that time, which you have trifled away:—He is drawing you nearer to an eternal world, that he may rouſe you from your fatal ſecurity. We would not, my friend, wiſh to alarm or terrify you; but we muſt be faithful, where the life of an immortal ſoul is at ſtake. You know that you are a mortal, and ought you not to ſuppoſe that this ſickneſs may be unto death? Let me intreat you to put to yourſelf this ſerious queſtion,—Am I ready? Take the goſpel marks of ſalvation into your hands, and judge yourſelves faithfully, as one who muſt be judged of the Lord.

Jeſus Chriſt has told you, that except a man be born again, he cannot ſee the kingdom of God: does not this imply, that you have a ſinful nature, that muſt be changed and renewed? He tells you that one thing is needful: and what is this one thing, but the care of your ſoul? Has this been the one

thing needful with you? Have you ſought firſt the kingdom of God, and his righteouſneſs, and preferred the hopes of eternal life, before all the pleaſures and proſperity of this world? Have you walked after the fleſh, or after the ſpirit? Have you been ſpiritually minded, which is life and peace; or carnally minded, which is death? have you hated ſin, and been ſtriving, watching, and praying againſt it? have you ſeen yourſelf to be one of thoſe loſt ſinners, whom Jeſus Chriſt came to ſeek and to ſave? And have you caſt yourſelf upon him for life and ſalvation? O my friend, how will you eſcape if you neglect ſo great a ſalvation? Ariſe and call upon thy God!—ſeek him while he may be found!—call upon him while he is near.

Prayer.

O my God! I have been examining my heart, and ſearching my ways; and I find that I have ſinned againſt heaven and in thy ſight; I have lived without thee in the world! Thou haſt called,

but I would not anſwer. I have caſt off fear, and reſtrained prayer before thee. I have reſiſted thy Holy Spirit, and trampled upon the blood of a Redeemer! O that my head was waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night. Have mercy upon me, O my God! Turn me, and I ſhall be turned! I have undone myſelf, but to thee do I look for help! Lord ſave me, or I periſh! I have heard that the King of Iſrael is a merciful King, and that thou haſt declared thyſelf the Lord God, merciful and glorious! I have heard thy gracious invitations to the weary and heavy laden; and I come to lay hold of thy grace and mercy! O take away this heart of ſtone, and give me a heart of fleſh: a heart to melt at thy love, to mourn for my rebellion againſt thee:—A heart to love holineſs, and to hunger and thirſt after righteouſneſs? O my God, it is a great work to change this ſinful heart, and to create it anew in Chriſt Jeſus; to crucify the old man, and to put on the new:—and I may have but little time for this great work,

and O how many doubts muſt I have of my own ſecurity! But, O my God, the work is thine own! Thy Spirit can ſanctify theſe corrupt affections, and the blood of ſprinkling can cleanſe me from all ſin! I will be at the foot of the croſs, and if I periſh I will periſh there.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELF EXAMINATION.

Marks of Growth in Grace.

My Friends. If there is a living principle of grace in your ſouls, it will be growing; and your growth will evidence your ſpiritual life. And would you not have ſome evidence that you are indeed alive,—united to Jeſus Chriſt as your living head, and have his Spirit dwelling in you as a vital principle!—That you are ſuch as he will preſerve from eternal death, and make happy in eternal life?—O what importance is it to examine whether you are growing or not. Aſk yourſelf ſeriouſly—Am I growing in grace or not? Does grace enter further into my ſoul; refine and ſpiritualize it? Have I more light, more faith, more love, more humility, better diſpoſitions for the ſervice of God and ſelf denial? Am I more thankful, more watchful, more careful and diligent in

every duty? Does my growth extend to the ſeveral kinds of grace? Is grace more ſtrong and powerful? Are the exerciſes of it eaſy, regular, and conſtant? And do I find the fruits of it more eminently appearing both in heart and life? Let me intreat you to dwell upon each of theſe particulars.

1. Grace is growing, when it ſpreads itſelf wider in the ſoul; that is, when each faculty becomes more ſpiritual and refined; when grace penetrates further into it; when the whole mind is more ſubject to the goſpel of Chriſt, and under its influence; when divine light is brighter in the underſtanding, and the will is become more loving and obedient to God; when the ſoul is more powerfully drawn by the great motives and encouragements of the goſpel; when it is more affected with the diſplays of the authority of God, and the grace of a Saviour, and more powerfully bowed to the Redeemer's demands.—when divine things take faſter hold of the ſoul and commands it more; when the mind is become ſeaſoned with the great principles of the goſpel; when it is moulded

into the very image of God as the wax is to the ſeal.

A man may be ſaid to grow, in proportion as the holy change paſſes further upon him, or is greater in the degree of it upon the ſeveral powers of his ſoul. In this ſenſe the Apoſtle prays for the Theſſalonians: "the very God of "peace ſanctify you wholly: and I "pray God, your whole ſpirit, and ſoul "and body, be preſerved blameleſs unto "the coming of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt."

2. We may be ſaid to grow in grace when we are growing in the ſeveral kinds of grace. The beginning of the divine life in the ſoul, is like the kindling of a ſpark of fire which grows up into a flame: and when there is an increaſe of one and the other, or of every kind of grace, then the ſoul may be ſaid to grow: when it has not only common, but ſpecial grace; when there is not only light and knowledge, but faith alſo; nor yet faith only, but a holy life:—and when there is added to this, a flaming love;—when the ſoul is melted into Godly ſorrow; when it is led to exerciſe itſelf in mortification and ſelf de-

nial; and to cleanſe itſelf from all filthineſs both of fleſh and ſpirit: and when it riſes from holineſs to comfort and joy in believing.

3. The ſoul grows when it becomes more ſtrong and powerful in any particular grace. The more we grow in grace, the more will the force and efficacy of it be felt, and the actings of it will be more ſucceſsful in reaching their end, either in mortifying ſin, or in furniſhing us for duty. We grow in knowledge and light, when the great myſteries of the goſpel ſhine more viſibly in the life, and become more fruitful in forming us to faith, and love, and meekneſs, and holineſs of converſation. The more we purify our ſouls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, the more we grow in grace. So when our affections become anſwerable to the ſteadineſs and vigour of our faith; when great difficulties do not lead us to diſtruſt and anxiety, as little ones did before; but we can truſt God in the greateſt that befall us. They grow, who once ſtruggled with paſſion and appetite, and were eaſily led away by them, but can now

overcome them; whoſe good deſires riſe into holy vigorous endeavours; whoſe good thoughts ripen into holy words and actions; whoſe knowledge is more clear and certain, more powerful and experimental; whoſe love is more fervent, ſteady, and pure—and whoſe repentance flows not only from a ſenſe of wrath, and fear of hell, but from a love of God and hatred of ſin.

4. When the exerciſe of grace becomes more eaſy and pleaſant to us than it was before. When the ſeveral graces of the ſpirit are ready to be called out to exerciſe, and move like oiled wheels upon the firſt attempt to ſet them in motion. That ſoul is in a growing ſtate that is ready to attend duty upon ſhort warning, and with every grace engaged; that can pray and read in a ſpiritual frame, deny itſelf, act faith in the promiſes, renounce the devil and fleſh, forgive injuries, and do acts of charity with readineſs and pleaſure. Some perſons find their minds lie a great way off and averſe from ſpiritual and holy exerciſes: they muſt argue with themſelves a great while before

they can prevail. The Chriſtian has frequently hard work to do. He muſt chide himſelf again and again, before his backward ſpirit will comply. On the other hand, when ſpiritual work is become natural and eaſy to the ſoul, there is undoubtedly improvement and growth in grace. There may be growth indeed where there is ſome difficulty in getting the heart into a ſpiritual frame; but then that grace cannot be ſo remarkable or great: though the eſſence of it cannot be denied, yet the ſtrength and vigour of it muſt. This is an evidence that grace is weak, though it may be true. We may be ſaid to grow in grace, when we are more ſteady, conſtant, and regular in the exercile of it, and are ſtill reaching forward to the greateſt perfection.

5. The ſoul is growing when the fruits of grace appear eminently upon it. The tree that bears good fruit, certainly grows. "God is able," ſays the Apoſtle, "to make all grace abound to-"ward you; that they always having "ſufficiency in all things, may abound "to every good work." When Chriſ-

tians are called out to any ſpecial duty, or ſervice, they ſhew they had their hearts fitted for that ſervice, by a readineſs to engage in it, and a ſkilful performance of it to the glory of God. This is a glorious ſufficiency. When an earthly mind becomes heavenly, and a vain mind becomes ſerious; when a narrow ſpirit becomes generous; and one that was ſlothful and inactive in the ſervice of God, becomes one of excellent uſefulneſs, full of good works, and brings forth fruit;—this is growth in Grace. In any or all of theſe inſtances there may be growth.

6. Enquire whether you grow in humble, and mean thoughts of yourſelves. To theſe God has made the promiſe, that he will give more grace: "He reſiſteth the proud, but giveth "grace unto the humble." Humbling yourſelves is the way to be exalted, both in grace, and in the divine favour. The tree that ſhoots its roots furtheſt downward, riſes higheſt upward with its branches, and ſtands the faſteth with all its height. They who have ſtood faſt in the rank of God's worthies, have

commonly had the leaſt and loweſt thoughts of themſelves. "I count not "myſelf to have apprehended," was the language of that eminent apoſtle St. Paul. "Not as though I had already "attained, either were already perfect:" and in other places he confeſſes, that he was leſs than the leaſt of all ſaints, and the chief of ſinners. I am not worthy of the leaſt of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou haſt ſhewed unto thy ſervant. Humility gives riſing to grace: there is an aptneſs in it to make the ſoul grow, becauſe it leads it to God in Chriſt, under a ſenſe of its own weakneſs, and makes it warm and earneſt at a throne of grace for relief.

7. Do you grow in a love, and value for the bleſſed Jeſus? This will be an excellent ſymptom of growth! St. Paul was got to a noble height, when he counted all things but loſs, and dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus his Lord! He who has been moſt ſolicitous for Grace, and taken moſt pains in duty, will have the higheſt value for Chriſt. He ſees ſo

much imperfection in every grace, ſo many defects in every ſervice he performs, that he will acknowledge he muſt periſh, if he is not juſtified by a better righteouſneſs—if he has not an all-ſufficient Redeemer.

Laſtly. Do your deſires after growth in Grace increaſe? and are you more diligent in your endeavours after it? Our perfection on earth lies in deſire; I mean, in laborious endeavouring-deſire; not in ſlothful lazy wiſhes. When our duties are defective, God meaſures them by our deſires, rather than by what they are, if, at the ſame time, we are ſtriving to come as near as we can to perfection. Deſires, indeed, are what the good man talks of more than any thing elſe; but leſt you ſhould flatter yourſelf into any dangerous miſtake, obſerve whether your deſires are active, and put you upon the greateſt diligence and labour in the way that God hath preſcribed. It is a remarkable, and an affecting expreſſion of a great man,—Hell is paved with lazy wiſhes. The wiſe man ſays, the deſire of the ſlothful killeth him; his deſires muſt be a per-

petual torment to him, becauſe he will not be at the pains to give them ſatisfaction. The diligent hand maketh rich, both in temporals and ſpirituals. There is no growth to be expected without pains; though while we labour we muſt own the ſucceſs of all depends upon the divine bleſſing. We muſt be careful not to untie the knot which God hath tied, and make promiſes and precepts diſagree. Endeavours belong to us by God's appointment, and ſucceſs belongs to him: "Forgetting, therefore, the "things that are behind, let us preſs "forward—preſſing towards the mark "for the prize of the high calling of "God in Chriſt Jeſus."

Symptoms of Declining in Grace.

1. You are declining in Grace when you grow bolder with ſin, or with the occaſions of it, or temptations to it, than you were in your more watchful ſtate.

2. When you make a ſmall matter of thoſe inward corruptions, and infir-

mities which once ſeemed grievous to you, and almoſt intolerable.

3. When you ſettle in a courſe of religion that coſts you little labour, and leave out the hard and coſtly part and ſeem to be very religious in the reſt.

4. When you grow ſtrange to God and Chriſt, and have little converſe with him in the ſpirit, and your thoughts of him are few, and cold, and lifeleſs; and your religion conſiſts in converſing with good men, and good books, and outward duties.

5. When you are careleſs about heart-work; and find but little to do with your hearts from day to day in trying them, or watching them, or ſtirring them up, or mortifying their corruptions: but your buſineſs in religion is moſt abroad, and in outward exerciſes.

6. Though your own hearts and duties muſt have much of your thoughts, you are on the loſing hand, if the wonders of love and grace in Chriſt have not more of your thoughts and of your devout affections.

7. All is not well with you when

ſpiritual help and advantages are leſs reliſhed and valued, and you grow more indifferent to the ſermons, prayers, and ordinances which once you could not live without, and uſe them but as bare duties, for neceſſity, and not as means, with any great hope of benefit and ſucceſs.

8. When you regard too much the eye of man, and too little the eye of God; and are more attentive to the words and outſide of your prayers, than the ſecret, and inward part of them; and dreſs yourſelves accurately when you appear abroad, but at home wear the ſordid garb of a cold and careleſs heart and life.

9. When you grow hotteſt about ſome controverted ſmaller matters in religion, or ſtudious of the intereſt of ſome private opinion, or party, which you have choſen, more than of the intereſt of the common truths and cauſe of Chriſt; more uncharitable and cenſorious to brethren that differ from you, and leſs tender of the names and welfare of others, and love not your neighbour as

yourſelves, and do not as you would be done by.

10. When the renewing of your repentance is grown a lifeleſs, curſory work. When in preparation for the Lord's day, or ſacrament, or other duties, you call yourſelves to no ſerious account, and grow ſlight in ſelf examination, and are contented in the daily uſe of ordinances, though you find no profit or increaſe in grace, or communion with God.

11. When ſenſe, and appetite, and fleſhly pleaſure is grown more powerful; and when you are more proud and impatient, and leſs able to bear diſeſteem, and ſlighting, and injuries from men, or poverty, or ſufferings for Chriſt; and make a greater matter of your croſſes and wrongs than becomes one that is dead to the fleſh and the world.

Laſtly, when the hopes of heaven, and the love of God, cannot content you; but you are thirſting after ſome worldly contentment, and grow eager in your deſires, and the world grows more ſweet to you; when you had rather dwell on earth, than in hea-

ven; and are more unwilling to think of death, or to prepare for it, or expect it, and are less in love with the coming of Christ; and are ready to say of this sinful life in the flesh, it is good to be here. All these are signs of a declining state, though yet you are not come to apostacy.

A Prayer

Under Spiritual Decay.

Eternal and unchangeable Jehovah! thy perfections and thy glories are like thy being, immutable. Jesus thy Son, is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. The eternal world, to which I am hastening, is always equally important. But, alas! my views, and my affections, and my best resolutions are continually varying. Whence, O Lord, whence this sad change, which I now experience, in the frame and temper of my mind towards thee? Whence this alienation of my soul from thee? Why cannot I come to thee with all the endearments of filial love, as I once could? Why is thy service so remissly

attended, if attended at all? And why are the exercises of it, which were once my greatest pleasure, become a burthen to me. Alas! Lord, whither am I fallen! thine eye sees me still; but O unlike what it once saw me! cold and insensible as I am, I must blush at the reflection.—Thou seest me in secret, and seest me, perhaps, often amusing myself with trifles in those seasons which I used solemnly to devote to thine immediate service. Thou seest me coming into thy presence as by constraint; and when I am before thee, so straitened in my spirit that I hardly know what to say to thee, though thou art the God with whom I have to do, and though the keeping up an humble and dutiful correspondence with thee, is beyond all comparison the most important business of my life. And even when I am speaking to thee, with how much coldness and formality is it: it is perhaps the work of the imagination, the labour of the lips: but where are those ardent desires, those intense breathings after God, which I once felt? Where is that pleasing repose in thee

which I was once conſcious of, as being near my divine reſt, as being happy in that nearneſs, and reſolving if poſſible, I would no more be removed from it. But O how far am I now removed! When theſe ſhort devotions are over, in what long intervals do I forget thee. Thou calleſt me to thine houſe, O Lord, on thine own day, but how heartleſs are my ſervices there? I offer thee no more than a carcaſe. My thoughts and affections are engroſſed with other objects, while I draw near to thee with my mouth, and honour thee with my lips. Thou calleſt me to thy table; but my heart is ſo frozen, that it hardly melts even at the foot of the croſs;—hardly feels any efficacy in the blood of Jeſus! Is this, Lord, the ſervice I once promiſed, and which thou haſt ſo many thouſand reaſons to expect? Are theſe the returns I am making, for thy daily providential care; for the ſacrifice of thy Son; for the communications of thy Spirit; for thy pardon of my numberleſs aggravated ſins; for the hopes of eternal glory? Lord, I am aſhamed to kneel before thee; but pity me, I be-

ſeech thee, and help me. "My ſoul "cleaveth unto the duſt," and lays itſelf as in the duſt before thee: but "O "quicken me according to thy word!" Let me trifle no longer, for I am on the brink of a precipice! O give me grace to turn my feet unto thy teſtimonies. Search me, O Lord, and try me; go to the firſt root of this diſtemper which ſpreads itſelf over my ſoul, and recover me from it! Repreſent ſin unto me, O Lord, I beſeech thee, that I may ſee it with abhorrence; and repreſent the Lord Jeſus Chriſt to me in ſuch a light, that I may look upon him and mourn; that I may look upon him and love! May I awaken from the ſtupid lethargy into which I am ſinking; and may Chriſt give me more abundant degrees of ſpiritual life and activity, than I have ever yet received: and may I be ſo quickened and animated by him, that I may more than recover the ground I have loſt. Send down upon me, O Lord, in a more rich and abundant effuſion, thy good Spirit; may he dwell in me as a temple which he has conſe-

crated to himſelf! and may the joy of the Lord be my ſtrength. Amen.

Advice to doubting Christians.

Judge not of your hearts and evidences, upon every ſudden glance or feeling; but upon a ſober deliberate examination: and let your ſkill and diligence be much greater to get grace, and uſe it, and increaſe it, than to try whether you have it or not. There is no ſuch ſafe way to be certain that you have grace, as to get ſo much as will be eaſily diſcerned, and will ſhew itſelf. When you have a ſtrong faith, you will eaſily be ſure that you believe:—when you have a fervent love to Chriſt and holineſs, you will eaſily be aſſured that you love them;—when you ſtrongly hate ſin, and live in univerſal conſtant obedience, you will eaſily diſcern your repentance and obedience. But weak grace, will have but weak aſſurance, and little conſolation.

2. Set yourſelves, with all your ſkill and diligence, to deſtroy every ſin of heart and life; and make it your princi-

pal care and buſineſs, to do your duty, and pleaſe God, and do all the good you can in the world; and truſt God with your ſouls, as long as you wait upon him in his way. If you live in wilful ſin and negligence;—if you cheriſh your ſenſual fleſhly luſts, and ſet your hearts too eagerly on the world;—if you indulge the paſſions of envy, pride, or uncharitableneſs, or live in the neglect of duty to God or man, and make no conſcience of a true reformation; it is not any enquiries after ſigns of grace, that will help you to aſſurance. You may complain long enough before you have eaſe while ſuch a thorn is in your foot. Conſcience muſt be better uſed before it ſpeaks a word of ſound well-grounded peace. But when you ſet yourſelves with all your care and ſkill, to do your duty, and pleaſe your Lord, he will not let you labour in vain; he will take care of your peace and comfort, while you take care of your duty: and in this way you may ſafely truſt him.

COMPASSIONATE ADDRESS TO THE FEARFUL AND DEJECTED CHRISTIAN.

My dear fellow Chriſtians, whoſe ſouls are taken up with the anxious thoughts of attaining to, and preſerving your peace with God; who are vile in your own eyes, and value the blood, and Spirit, and word of your Redeemer, and the hope of heaven, before all the vanities of the world; and reſolve to give up yourſelves to his conduct, who is become the author of eternal ſalvation to all thoſe that obey him, your merciful and heavenly Father has, by his beloved Son, ſent you this joyful meſſage, that God is love; that like as a Father pitieth his children, ſo the Lord pities you: he commands us by his word to tell you, that he takes notice of your ſorrows; he ſtands by, when you ſee him not, and are ready to think he has forſaken you: he minds you with greateſt tenderneſs when you ſay he has forgotten you: he numbereth your ſighs; he bottles up your tears; he takes it

unkind that you are ſo ſuſpicious of him; and that all that he hath done for you in the work of redemption, and all the gracious workings of his Spirit on your ſouls, and all your own experience of his goodneſs, can raiſe you to no higher a ſenſe of his love. Do you not ſee, and hear, and taſte his mercy and love? Do you live wholly upon it, and yet doubt of it? God takes not this well; but yet he knoweth your frame, and remembers that you are duſt: he knows that the fleſh will war againſt the ſpirit; he knows that ſin will breed ſorrows and fears; and that man's underſtanding is narrow, and that all his conceptions of God are extremely low; and that we are ſo far from God as creatures, and ſo much further from him as ſinners, that we ſhall ſometimes draw back and look at God afar off. But my friends, it is not the will of your Father, that you ſhould always keep at the diſtance of a ſervant, or a ſlave, he wiſhes you to enjoy the privileges of children, to cry Abba, Father: and to win your hearts, you are told, "That God ſo "loved the world, as to ſend his only

" begotten Son, that whoſoever be-
" lieveth in him ſhould not periſh, but
" have everlaſting life." Hear the gra-
cious invitations of this merciful Sa-
viour; " Come unto me all ye that la-
" bour, and are heavy laden, and I
" will give you reſt." And is not this
gracious invitation addreſſed to all?
And are you excluded? Are not you
the weary and heavy laden? Here is
that reſt and peace offered which you
want; remember when you are upon
your knees, that your heavenly Father
ſtands by beſeeching you to accept of
what you are beſeeching him to grant.
Do you wiſh for pardon, life, and ſalva-
tion? you have only to receive it in the
goſpel way. Are you diſtreſſed with
fears, troubles, and uncertain whether
chriſtian ſalvation is in you?—Suppoſe
you have never accepted of Chriſt, nor
given up yourſelves to him—but is he
not now ready to accept you? " Now
" is the accepted time: now is the day
" of ſalvation!" behold he ſtands at the
door and knocks; and will you not re-
ceive him with all his ſaving and ſanc-
tifying bleſſings? Come then boldly to

a throne of grace, that you may "ob-
"tain mercy, and find grace to help in
"every time of need." Is it not a com-
fort to your dejected ſpirits, to reflect,
that your gracious High Prieſt was
tempted like as you are, and is touched
with the feeling of your infirmities. He
will not break the bruiſed reed. O if a
poor bruiſed wounded ſoul had but heard
theſe words from his Saviour's mouth,
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
"becauſe he hath anointed me to preach
"the goſpel to the poor; he hath ſent
"me to heal the broken hearted; to
"preach deliverance to the captives,
"and recovering of ſight to the blind;
"to ſet at liberty them that are bruiſed;
"to preach the acceptable year of
"the Lord,"—what heart meltings
would it have cauſed? what love would
it have raiſed: you would ſurely then
have believed that the Lord is indeed
gracious! Let the ſoul who is doubting
of God's love, read the character of his
heavenly Father in the ſtory of the re-
turning Prodigal; and let him feel what
that poor penitent felt, when he found
himſelf in the arms of his compaſſionate

Father. The ſoul that felt this, would never ſure have ſuch hard and doubtful thoughts of God! Read the words of him who is high and holy; who inhabiteth eternity; and who dwells in the high and holy place,—with him alſo that is of a contrite and humble ſpirit, to revive the ſpirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Away then with every ſuſpicious thought of God's love! Let his praiſe dwell upon your lips; the actings of love, and thanks, and joy, will help you to comfort in a nearer way than arguments and ſelf examination, even in a way of feeling: even as the fire maketh you warm, the exerciſing theſe ſweeter graces, will habituate your ſouls to it, and in time wear out the ſad and gloomy impreſſion you now feel; and in the multitude of ſuch thoughts you may hope, that the comforts of God will delight your ſoul.

Marks of a Confirmed Christian.

A Christian indeed, is one whose repentance has been deep, and serious, and universal: it has gone to the very roots of sin; and has not left behind any reigning unmortified corruption, nor any prevailing love to sensual pleasure. He does not only condemn sin in words, and use confessions, to excuse him from mortification, and from giving the mortal blow to his corruptions, nor does he only repent of his open sins; but he especially perceives the dangerous poison of pride, and unbelief, and worldliness, and the want of love to God, and his neighbour; and all his outward and smaller sins shew him the malignity of these heart sins, and these are the matter of his greatest lamentation. He takes not up a profession of religion with strong corruptions secretly covered in his heart, but his religion consists in the death of his corruptions, and the purifying of his heart. He does not secretly cherish any sin as too sweet, or

too profitable, to be utterly forſaken, nor overlook it as a ſmall inconſiderable matter; but he feels ſin to be his enemy and his diſeaſe; and deſires not one ſin to be ſpared in his ſoul; but ſays with David, "Teach me, O God, "to know my heart; try me and know "my thoughts; and ſee if there be "any wicked way in me, and lead me "in the way everlaſting!"—He is "blameleſs and harmleſs, as a Son of "God, without rebuke in the midſt of "a crooked and perverſe generation, "among whom he ſhines as a light in "the world." The fear, and love, and obedience of God, is the work and tenor of his life.

2. A Chriſtian indeed is one, that is ſo ſenſible of his loſt condition, unworthineſs, and utter inſufficiency for himſelf, and ſo highly prizes the offices, perfection, and ſufficiency of Chriſt, that he has abſolutely put his ſoul and all his hopes into the hands of this Almighty Saviour, and now lives in him, as having no life but what he has from Chriſt, nor any other way of acceſs to God, or acceptance with him: in him

he beholds and delightfully admires the love and goodneſs of his Father; and through him has acceſs with boldneſs to a reconciled God. Chriſt now dwells in his heart by faith, and being rooted and grounded in love, he "apprehendeth "with all ſaints, what is the breadth, "and depth, and heighth of the love of "Chriſt, which paſſeth knowledge!" He feels that he is beholden to Chriſt for all his hopes of ſalvation: he perceives that he is dead to himſelf, and that his life is hid with Chriſt in God; and therefore he is as it were buried, and riſen again with Chriſt; even dead to ſin, but alive to God through Jeſus Chriſt; and the life that he now lives, is by the faith of the Son of God, who loved him, and gave himſelf for him.

3. A Chriſtian indeed is one that makes God and heaven, the end, the reward, and the motive of his life. The intereſts of God, and his ſoul, are the ruling intereſts with him: as a traveller goes on his way, and bears all the difficulty of it, for the ſake of the place he is going to, however he may talk of many other matters by the way, his buſineſs is

to lay up a good foundation againſt the time to come, and to lay hold on eternal life, and therefore his very heart is there; and he is employed in ſeeking and ſetting his affections on things above. He looks not at the things which are ſeen, which are temporal, but at the things which are unſeen, and are eternal. Having taken heaven for his felicity, he accounts no coſt too great for the obtaining it; though difficulties may hinder him, and his attainments fall ſhort of his deſires, yet he is reſolved through grace never to part with Chriſt and heaven. He knows that it is impoſſible to be a loſer by God, or to purchaſe heaven at too dear a rate: he knows that whatſoever it coſt him, heaven will fully pay for all:—he knows that even our duty is not our ſmalleſt privilege and mercy; but that the more we do for God, the more we receive, and the greater is our gain and honour. He is not one that deſires the end without the means: he complains of his backwardneſs to obey, but never complains of the ſtrictneſs of the command. He loves the holineſs, juſtice, and goodneſs of the law, while

he bewails the unholineſs and badneſs of his heart. He does not deſire God to command him leſs, but deſires grace and ability to do more.

4. A Chriſtian indeed, is one that daily delights himſelf in God, and finds more ſolid pleaſure in his commands and promiſes, than in all this world can give him. Religion is not a tireſome taſk to him; the yoke of Chriſt is eaſy to him, and his burden light. That which others perform from mere neceſſity, againſt their will, he goes to with delight. He prays becauſe he loves to pray; and thinks and ſpeaks of holy things, becauſe he takes pleaſure in them. If it is a delight to men to converſe with their deareſt friends, or to hear from them at a diſtance, it is no wonder if the Chriſtian delights to read the goſpel myſteries of love, and to find there the promiſes of everlaſting happineſs; and to ſee in the face of Jeſus Chriſt the cleareſt image of the eternal Deity. It is not bare external duty, which he is taken up with; but it is God in creatures and ordinances, that he ſeeks and lives upon. He would

not change the heavenly delight which he finds in the exercise of faith and hope, and love to God, for all the carnal pleasures of the world:—he "would "rather be a door-keeper in the house "of God, than to dwell in the palaces "of wickedness;" "in the multitude of "his thoughts within him, the com-"forts of God delight his soul." His meditation of God is sweet, and he is glad in the Lord. One look to Christ; one promise of the gospel; one serious thought of the life which he is to live with God for ever, affords his soul more solid comfort than all the kingdoms on earth can afford: and though he lives not continually in these high delights, yet peace with God, and peace of conscience, and some delight in God and godliness, is the ordinary temper of his soul. His grace is not so small as to be undiscernable; nor is it a sleepy buried seed or principle. They that have a good degree of grace, and keep it in lively exercise, are not so much troubled with doubts of its sincerity, as the weak and languid Christian: they blot not their evidences by so ma-

ny infirmities and falls: they are more in the light, and have more acquaintance with themselves, and more sense of the abundant love of God. They have more of the Spirit of adoption, and can call him Father, with greater freedom and comfort.

3. A Christian indeed, is grounded in humility. He is so well acquainted with his manifold imperfections, and daily failings, and great unworthiness, that he is very low and vile in his own eyes, and therefore can easily endure to be low, and vile, in the eyes of others. He even abhors himself when he finds the averseness of his heart to God, and how little he knows of him, and how little he loves him in comparison of what he ought; and how little of heaven is upon his heart; and how backward his thoughts are to the life to come. These are as fetters upon his soul. He daily groans under them as a captive, and longs for the day of his deliverance. (In the midst of all God's graces) he sees in himself so much darkness, imperfection, and want of further grace, that he is often a burden to himself.

O could he but know and love God more, and be more in heaven, and more willing to die, how eaſily could he bear all croſſes and injuries, and be content with any ſtate on earth. He is much more fearful of doing wrong, than of receiving wrong. He falls out with himſelf more frequently than with others. He believes himſelf to be his greateſt enemy, and knows that his danger is moſt at home. He is more careful of his duty to his prince, his parents, his maſter, his paſtor, than of their's towards him, becauſe he knows that ſin is worſe than preſent ſuffering; and it is better to be injured than to injure others.

6. A Chriſtian indeed, is more in getting and uſing his graces, than enquiring whether he has them. He is very deſirous to be aſſured that he is ſincere, but he is more deſirous to be ſo; and he knows that even aſſurance is gained more by the exerciſe and increaſe of grace, than by bare enquiry, whether we have it already. Not that he is a neglecter of ſelf examination; but he oftener aſks, what ſhall I do to b-

ſaved? than how ſhall I know that I ſhall be ſaved?

7. A Chriſtian indeed, ſtudies duty more than events. He looks to his own part more than God's, knowing that it is he that is moſt likely to fail, but God will never fail of his part. And when any thing goes amiſs, he blames himſelf, and not God's providence. He knows that the hairs of his head are numbered, and that his Father knows what he needeth; and that God is infinitely wiſer and fitter to diſpoſe of him, than he is to chuſe for himſelf: and therefore he thankfully accepts that eaſy indulgent command, caſt all your care on him, for he careth for you.

8. A Chriſtian indeed, is one that highly values time: he knows how much work he has to do; that he has a ſoul to ſave or loſe; a heaven to win; a hell to eſcape; a death and judgement to prepare for; many a ſin to mortify, and many graces to exerciſe and increaſe; and many enemies and temptations to overcome; and that what is now left undone, muſt be undone for ever. O precious time! how highly

does he value it; when he thinks of his everlasting state, and what work he has for every hour of his time: he has a heart to teach, and watch, and study; and a God to seek, and faithfully serve, and many to do good to; and a variety of duties to perform: but, alas! time makes haste away, and many things are left undone; and he is afraid that death will find him very much behind hand, and therefore he is up and doing as one that has use for every minute. Redeeming the time is much of his wisdom and his work.

9. A Christian indeed, makes conscience of all the duties of his station and relation to others; if he is a husband, he is loving and patient, and faithful to his wife;—if he is a father, he is careful of the holy education of his children:—if he is a master, he is just and merciful to his servants, and careful for the saving of their souls:—if he is a child or servant, he is obedient, trusty, diligent and careful, as well behind his parent's or master's back, as before his face. He dares not lye, nor steal, nor deceive, nor speak dishonourably of his

ſuperiors, though he were ſure to conceal it all; for he knows that a bad parent or child, a bad huſband or wife, maſter or ſervant, cannot be a good Chriſtian.

O happy Church, and State, and Family, that are compoſed of ſuch confirmed Chriſtians! where their prevailing character is ſuch as has been deſcribed! but how much more happy is the new Jeruſalem, the city of the living God, where the perfected ſpirits of the juſt, in perfect life, and light, and love, are beholding, admiring, and praiſing the eternal God, their Creator, and Redeemer, and Sanctifier for ever.

THE END.

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